

IRAN NEWS



Tunisian President Zin El Abidin Ben Ali (C) Met Japan's Emperor Akihito in Tokyo, July 10, While on a 4-Day State Visit

South African President Nelson Mandela Reviews the Guard of Honor Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh July 9



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Sheikholeslam Denounces Netanyahu

BY OUR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR
TEHRAN - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday again said that he would 'keep his nation's peace commitment', but only on the basis of his own 'belief'.

Addressing the U.S. Congress Netanyahu vowed yesterday to maintain a united Jerusalem, and described demands for dividing the holy city of Qods groundless and dangerous.

"We shall not allow a Berlin Wall to be erected inside Jerusalem," he said.

He asked the international community to further isolate the Iranian and Iraqi governments and prevent them from acquiring nuclear weapons.

A senior official in Iranian Foreign Ministry yesterday denounced Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and said, "He violated all international laws and norms."

Deputy Foreign Minister Hussein Sheikholeslam in an interview with IRAN NEWS said,



Netanyahu (L) and Clinton (R)

"Netanyahu is the one who reneged on all commitments made by his predecessor."

Sheikholeslam was referring to the pledge made by Prime Minister Shimon Peres for a 'land-for-peace' strategy. Netanyahu came into power on May 29 and declared that he would not honor the accords signed by Peres.

"It's a clear violation of international law," Sheikholeslam said to IRAN NEWS.

"Look at his (Netanyahu's)

cabinet... it's a cabinet of warriors and criminals such as Ariel Sharon who was responsible for the massacre of the Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila," the deputy foreign minister in charge of Arab and African countries affairs, said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"Members of the Netanyahu cabinet believe in a greater Israel and they are expansionists," Sheikholeslam said.

On Netanyahu's baseless charges that Iran is acquiring the atomic bomb, Sheikholeslam said, "Iran's doors are open to international inspectors."

"You see," Sheikholeslam said, "international inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visited Iran sev-

See Page 13

Britain's Duplicious Role in EU-Iran Dialogue

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - An Iranian observer yesterday expressed disapproval over the stand of Britain on Iran-EU dialogue which is continuing on various vital issues including the apostate Salman Rushdie.

The observer, talking to IRAN NEWS, also expressed surprise at how the details of the 'closed-door' talks held between Iran and EU Troika in Rome recently were made available to the British press.

"Britain, contrary to the majority opinion of the EU is trying to scuttle the on-going dialogue on apostate Rushdie," he told IRAN

NEWS with the condition of anonymity.

"In its desperate move to mar the EU-Iran dialogue, Britain divulged the details of the talks to its own news media," he said.

Another source, commenting on the same subject, said, "The fact is that Britain wants to settle the Rushdie issue with Iran bilaterally."

Indian-born Rushdie in his book 'The Satanic Verses' insulted over one billion Muslims across the world and belittled their religious beliefs.

The apostate Rushdie was con-

See Page 13

Riyadh, Damascus Urge World Pressure on Israel

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

(AFP) - Saudi Arabia and Syria yesterday called for world pressure to force the new Israeli right-wing government to respect the peace process with the Arabs and ensure its success.

The Saudi kingdom and Syria urge the concerned countries, the United Nations and international institutions to join efforts to make Israel respect the principles of peace and honor its commitment," a joint statement said.

The two sides expressed their commitment to U.N. land-for-peace resolutions 242, 338 and

425 following a meeting of the joint Saudi-Syrian committee in the Saudi capital.

"Such resolutions guarantee the total Israeli withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights, South Lebanon and all Palestinian territories, including the city of Jerusalem," they said.

Riyadh and Damascus said the "continuation of the peace process and the resumption of peace negotiations required a commitment to apply the principles of peace, particularly resolutions 242, 338 and 425."

See Page 13

Indian Leaders Still Go to Jail, But for a Different Cause

BY IRAN FARVIZ

TEHRAN - Once upon a time Indian leaders used to land in prison and the same tradition is still

NEWS ANALYSIS

continuing, but with a distinct cause.

Stalwarts such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abulkalam Azad, Rajendra Prasad, and so many others were forced to go to jail in India of British Raj for their struggle against colonial rule.

Most of these politicians were the leaders of the Indian National Congress which in recent years has been divided into various factions, whose leaders claimed to be the real congressmen.

The leaders of the Congress are still heading towards prison, not for independence, but on the charges of corruption, misappropriation of their official posts and nepotism.

A recent alarming story, popularly understood to signify a fact that corruption is really deep-

See Page 13

Serbs Obstruct Exhumation of Muslim Bodies

SARAJEVO (Dispatches) - Finnish forensic experts working to recover the remains of around 100 Muslims killed near the eastern Srebrenica enclave have stopped work because of obstruction by Bosnian Serbs, a U.N. spokesman said yesterday.

"The team has effectively ceased work in the Republika Srpska because of the obstructive attitude of the Republika Srpska authorities," U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said.

AFP reported that the Finns had been due to collect the remains of around 100 Muslims scattered on the hillside in the Kravice region, close to the former Muslim enclave of Srebrenica which was overrun by Serb forces a year ago, Ivanko added.

At least 3,000 Muslim men of draft age are believed to have been murdered in the Srebrenica area following the enclave's fall last July, and another 5,000 men have

See Page 13

National Iranian Copper Industries

See Page 3

A review of development of telecommunications in the Islamic world

With an understanding of the changes in the global level and recognition of the significant role of telecommunications in development of communities, different Islamic nations have made varied efforts to expand and develop their telecommunication systems and are nowadays playing a significant role in that field.

In 1994 with 61 million population the penetration ratio of telephone in Turkey was 20.70 and approximately 13 million fixed telephone lines plus 175 thousand mobile lines against a penetration ratio of 4.2 and 2.5 million fixed telephone lines plus 8,100 mobiles used in Egypt with the same rate of population. In the same year the Islamic Republic of Iran had a penetration ratio of 7 and 4.4 million fixed telephone lines plus 16,620 mobile telephones. In addition to the great gap in the distribution of telephone among these nations we notice that Turkey by adding 1,717,372 new telephones to its present system and Iran by adding 719,580 telephones in the year 1994 were among the first five nations in the world which were advanced in their telecommunication system, whereas Egypt by adding 196,052 telephones lines to her network became 31st country in the world telecommunication development list. Thus, we notice that the gap between the Islamic nations is widening day by day. With a penetration ratio of 14.7 and 2.9 million fixed telephone lines and more than 57 thousand mobile telephones, Malaysia achieved an 18.8 percent growth in that year. Meanwhile with a population of approximately 19 million persons, Afghanistan was comparable with Saudi Arabia whose penetration ratio was 9.8 with 1.7 million fixed telephone lines and 20 thousand mobiles and 6.2 percent growth in the same year. However penetration ratio in Afghanistan was 0.15 with only 29 thousand fixed telephone lines installed. Indonesia with a population of 191 million inhabitants owns 2.4 million fixed telephone lines plus 112 thousand mobiles and has made considerable progress in its satellite telecommunication system, and Pakistan with 124 million population and 2.2 million fixed telephone lines and 42,661 mobiles has had a penetration ratio of 1.8, and these two countries enjoyed a favorable growth in their telecommunication system in 1994. Indonesia with 23.6 percent and Pakistan with 20.5 percent growth in their telecommunication systems were among countries which had the highest rate of telecommunication growth in the world in 1994 i.e. a growth of above 20 percent. On the other hand Bangladesh with 125 million population possessed only 270 thousand fixed telephone lines plus 1,200 mobiles with a poor penetration ratio of 0.22 and growth rate of 0.3 percent in 1994. Besides this gap, the 52 Islamic states fell within the penetration ratio range of 33.4 for United Arab Emirates and 0.08 for Chad. As a result, these nations have understood that development of telecommunication system is closely interrelated with national development. In addition to Turkey, Iran and Indonesia other Muslim states such as Syria, Maghreb and Pakistan which fell in the group of countries with 20 percent growth in 1994, verify the truth of the above statement. It is therefore necessary for Muslim states to make a united and coordinated effort to shorten the gap of telecommunication advancement among themselves, because this century is the century of telecommunication and we are living in a world where real power is in the hands of those countries which possess much stronger telecommunication networks and more data. Under these conditions, the Islamic nations must contrive more and more to establish a strong telecommunication and data network.

VELAYATI: Iran Did not Call for Resumption of Ties with Egypt

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday said Cairo has put pre-conditions for normalization of ties with Tehran, while Iran had not even called for improving its relations with that country.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with IRAN NEWS, Velayati added: "What is important for us in this relation, is our respect for Syria's efforts to forge closer co-

See Page 13

Mubarak to Visit Ankara to Discuss Turkish-Israeli Accord

BY OUR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

TEHRAN - President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will go to Ankara today and a report from Cairo said that it will be a 'working visit to review Turkey's military agreement with Israel.'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mubarak's visit to Turkey followed the June 22-23 Arab summit in Cairo which in its communiqué asked Ankara to reconsider its military agreement with Israel.

Mubarak's mentor, Anwar Sadat signed a peace accord with

See Page 13

SUMMARY

Subversive Cartoons
Page 10

Netanyahu at the Pentagon
Page 14
Page 15

Barkley Is Back
Page 16

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EDITORIAL

Update of Statistics System, A National Priority

The absence of a sound statistics and data network, tuned to the country's economic and social policies, poses one of Iran's major stumbling blocks to economic, industrial and social planning.

Unfortunately, Iran's statistics and data system is out of date and many problems arise because of this: Inaccuracy, exaggeration by some officials to glorify their own patch, and a lack of suitable monitoring system. These factors work hand-in-hand to prevent the compilation of accurate statistics for the benefit of researchers, scholars, students and government planners.

Perhaps the key to solving these problems is in improving and updating the statistics and data networks nationally - an uphill task that looks daunting. But existing data cannot meet the needs of different economic and social sectors which need clear direction to fulfill national targets.

A glance at the factors behind the advancement of progressive industrial countries shows that their serious, practical and systematic consideration of true statistics has been a major tool towards development.

They have, moreover, made optimum use of this tool. In presenting statistics they do not sacrifice their national interests for political point-scoring. They do not present erroneous information to magnify their own deeds.

Of course, the problems gripping Iran's statistics system exist in most Third World and developing countries. But if Iran intends to speed up its economic progress based on precise data, it has to pay special attention to statistics and data gathering methods.

In the last few years, many measures have been taken to improve our statistics system. But the situation is far from ideal. As yet the country has failed to really cooperate with research and education centers and universities.

If statistics do not become a focus of attention, Iran will face irreparable losses in the future. With enough capital investment and access to modern statistics and data systems, Iran can reach an ideal state in the shortest time possible.

Mashhad Hosts

International Physics Meet

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Around one thousand physicists from England, Australia and Iran will be in Mashhad this September to take part in the Thirteenth Annual Conference on Physics, IRNA reported.

Jamshid Ghanbari, dean of the Physics Faculty at Ferdowsi University in Mashhad, said the three day conference would consist of

lectures on different branches of the science, including astro-physics, nuclear physics, fundamental molecules, medical physics, laser, mathematics and physics.

He said that of the 124 articles received so far, 80 would be presented at the conference.

Various workshops would also be set up on the sidelines of the conference, he said.

Islamic Countries Have the Potentials to Form a World Power



PHOTO BY ABDI

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani stated, that the Islamic countries have the potential to unite and form a world power, due to their special geopolitical situation, resources and rich culture.

The remark was made at the opening ceremonies of the Third Meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), yesterday.

Leaders of the Islamic countries are duty-bound to utilize their potentials appropriately to obtain the status they deserve, he said, referring to the OIC as the best channel to utilize such potentials, according to IRNA.

Emphasizing that the OIC should strengthen cooperation among its member states, he said, "today the world counts on the OIC and we in the Islamic world should also pay more attention to it". President Rafsanjani, emphasized the importance of cooperation among Islamic countries to expand their telecommunication industries, and stressed that these nations should regard this industry with greater significance.

Referring to the vital role of telecommunications, IRNA continued to report, he said Islamic countries should pay particular attention to the telecommunications sector, due to the sensitive and decisive nature of the field.

Reminding that the Islamic countries can set up a base to render services and expand on their telecommunication networks for the Islamic countries, he claimed that the Islamic Development Bank can make a greater investment in this field.

Unlike some countries which tend to monopolize, Iran does not intend to use it's potentials in this area to gain specific goals, he said.

Rafsanjani also said that it is essential that a joint Islamic satellite system be established, IRNA reported.

The President urged the telecommunications ministers of the Islamic countries to do their best to implement the agreements

signed between these nations.

Reminding that the Islamic countries can attain modern post and telecommunications technology, he referred to the Islamic Republic as a model country in this regard.

Turning to Iran's achievements in the field of telecommunications, he said all related fields in Iran, ranging from design to implementation, used to be carried out by foreign experts prior to the Islamic Revolution in 1979. But, today all of them are performed by Iranian experts, he added.

The President expressed hopes that the Tehran meeting would have positive impact on furthering the cooperation among Islamic countries.

Peace and Security Necessary for Industrial Development



HABIBI

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - First Vice-President Hassan Habibi Tuesday in Sanandaj said that the preservation of peace and security and peaceful relations with neighboring countries are among Iran's principle policies.

Habibi, in his speech at the inaugural ceremony at the 2,300 ton Kurdistan cement plant, said that since Iran has joined exporter countries, the economic logic requires regional states to live in a peaceful and secure state.

On the country's industrial progress, he said that confidence today, Iranian craftsmen and experts believe that they possess the ability to create and produce al-

most anything.

Also present at the inauguration ceremony was also Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh and the Kurdistan governor.

Nematzadeh hoped that through expanding relations with other countries, the way would be paved for the better use of facilities.

The plant has been constructed at a cost of 220 billion rials including an equivalent of \$42.5 million

in hard currency.

The cement factory, built on a 43 hectare land plot with a 28,000 square meter roofed area, has created 340 jobs.

In addition to meeting local needs the factory is able to provide other Iranian provinces with their needed cement requirements, IRNA reported from Sanandaj.

The plant is also expected to export high quality cement to Persian Gulf states as well as Asian and Central Asian countries.

Velayati Tells Turkey to Work Towards Building of Mutual Trust

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met here Tuesday evening with Turkish Deputy Interior Minister Erol Caker.

He said that the Turkish government should remind its border officials to be more cautious and pay sufficient attention to Iran's border areas so as to prevent any incident which might create doubts and suspicions.

He said, in reference to the June 26 Turkish helicopter attack on Iran's Silvana border in West Azarbaijan which left six killed and 15 wounded, that such inci-

dents were not to Turkey's interests and preserving border security needs mutual trust.

Velayati said that it was part of Iran's decisive policies to defend the security of the Islamic homeland and the safety of its citizens.

Caker said that his country follows the non-intervention policy, voicing his government's interest in preserving good neighborly relations with Iran and other regional Muslim countries.

In reference to Tehran-Ankara ties, particularly after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, he said

See Page 10

Afghan, Iran Health Issues Discussed

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education Dr. Alireza Marandi met with incoming Afghan Minister of Public Health Mohammad Yaghaub Barkezi to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Barkezi thanked Iran for successfully launching an anti-polio vaccination program in Afghanistan and for sending their country drugs to combat malaria.

The two sides also explored ways and means for helping Afghanistan and supplying medical

See Page 13

503kg Narcotics Seized

ABADAN, KHUZESTAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - Some 503 kg of illicit drugs have been confiscated by the provincial law enforcement personnel in Abadan and Khorramshahr, southwestern Iran, during the past three months, said head of the Abadan's Islamic Revolutionary Court yesterday.

According to the judge, Kazem Jabbari, the drugs were found in two different vehicles and 11 smugglers were arrested in this connection.

Maleki to Visit London This Week

Italian FA

Floods Claim 15 Lives

Tehran-Cooperation

Maleki to Visit London This Week

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Deputy Foreign Minister for Research and Education, Abbas Maleki will visit London this week (July 17-18) to attend a third round of research talks between Iran and Europe, an informed source told IRAN NEWS yesterday.

The session held annually, will discuss issues of mutual interest between Iran and Europe.

The first round of the talks was held in Iran three years ago and the second in Italy last year.

Maleki will also visit Sudan (July 14-16) at the invitation of his See Page 13

Iran, Laos Sign Memorandum of Understanding

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - On the last day of his visit here, Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Islamic Republic according to which the two countries will expand their cooperations in trade, technical, and educational fields.

The agreement also provides for the formation of joint Irano-Laotian companies, holding of scientific and educational conferences, as well as exchange of technical experiences between the two nations.



Italian FM Official on Iran-EU Talks

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - An Italian Foreign Ministry official declared that the European Union (EU)-Iran talks have reached a stalemate, particularly in regard to Salman Rushdie.

The official said that on June 20 when Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi met with EU representatives, no tangible results were reached, according to an IRNA report quoting ANESA news agency from

Rome.

The Edinburgh European Council on December 12, 1992 approved the holding of critical dialogues between Iran and the EU with the aim of criticizing Iranian officials for tangles along the way of normalization of bilateral ties, the official was reported as saying.

He said the case of Salman Rushdie has prime importance, being on a par with Iran's significant concerns such as the Middle East peace process, terrorism, proliferation of nuclear weapons, and human rights issues.

These statements have been set forth in response to a letter addressed to the Italian foreign minister by an opposition Iranian group known as Iran's National Conference.

In the letter by this unknown group (which might be the Munaqqiqan Khalq Organization or MKO), the Islamic Republic of

Iran has been accused of terrorism in the Middle East and assassination of its opponents abroad.

The letter also criticizes the Iranian government for retreating vis-a-vis Rushdie's death verdict and for being open to compromise.

Quoting the Italian foreign minister, the news agency said the EU-Iran critical talks have not reached prominent success, but the dialogs should continue to make even small advancement in combating terrorism.

Interestingly, the ANESA news agency has slyly quoted this report from a note by the Italian Foreign Ministry without indicating that it has actually reported the statements of an official at that ministry.

IRNA contacted the Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman for confirmation. The spokesman confirmed the veracity of See Page 13

Floods Claim 15 Lives

TABRIZ, EAST AZARBAIJAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - Flood triggered by torrential rainfalls over the past couple of days have killed at least 15 people and inflicted over 24.561 billion rials in damage on public facilities and farmlands.

Natural disasters headquarters in this northwestern province announced here yesterday that the floods had destroyed 321 residential units, inflicting 3.355 billion rials in damage.

Some 3,228 hectares of farmlands sustained a loss of 14,291 billion rials and 1,788 heads of livestock worth 555 rials perished.

Urban infrastructures and installations and roads suffered a loss of 6.36 billion rials in the floods.

Tehran-Accra News Cooperation Discussed

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Morteza Sarmadi visiting Ghana's Minister of Information Kofi Totobi Quakyi in Accra on Tuesday, reviewed various avenues, to promote bilateral ties.

Sarmadi suggested, that in order to confront the Zionist propaganda, Third World countries should exchange news and information with each other, according to IRNA.

In reference to the agreement reached between the two countries' news agencies, Quakyi stated that both countries have a great potential for promoting existing relations, including cooperation within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Through exchange of news delegations in the media, he expressed hopes that the possibility

Cooperation Among Iran, Russia and Regional States Discussed

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Trilateral cooperation between Iran, Russia and each of the regional states, were among the topics discussed between Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Mahdi Safari and Russian Minister for Relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States, Valery Serov, in Moscow yesterday.

of further expansion of cooperation between Tehran and Accra would occur in the near future.

The Iranian diplomat proposed a system of cooperation among Iran, Russia and Armenia and another, among Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan.

The Russian minister was supported of the proposal, and was open to further practical suggestions by Iran in this matter, according to IRNA reports.

The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and issues related to purchase of equipment for the oil industry and railway.

The Russian official announced his country's readiness to supply Iran with oil products via the Caspian Sea and re-export an equivalent amount of the products from the Persian Gulf.

President Inaugurates Communications Complex

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hashemi Rafsanjani today inaugurates the Islamic Revolution Communications Complex here.

Minister of Post, Telephone and Telegraph, Mohammad Gharazi, will deliver a speech detailing the new center's capabilities before the huge complex is opened by President Rafsanjani.

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN
SURA 67, THE KINGDOM (AL-MULK)
In the Name of God
The Beneficent, the Merciful

8. Well-nigh with rage exploding;
Where're another group is in there thrown,
Its keepers throw at them this question:
Did ne'er a warner come to you to warn?

*The 30th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: RASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-5 (F.N.)

PRAYER TIMES	
Noon (Zohr)	13:10
Evening (Maghreb)	20:45
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:00
Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:56

Turkey Implicitly Accepts Aggression of Iranian Border Point

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - In talks with Iranian officials, Turkey has implicitly admitted that its army invaded the Iranian border point, said Gholamhussein Bolandian, deputy interior minister for security affairs here yesterday.

Bolandian who was addressing a press conference, added: "We have submitted convincing docu-

ments to the visiting Turkish officials which prove that the invasion was performed 100 percent by Turkish forces."

Showing pictures of the incident to reporters, the deputy minister said: "These are rocket pieces that were found at the site of aggression which prove that Turkish helicopters fired their

See Page 13

In the Name of God

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER
National Iranian Copper Industries Co, (NICICO)
affiliated to Ministry of Mines and Metals of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to execute the Project of Sarcheshmeh Concentrator Expansion with the capacity of 900 TPH ore feed through an international general tender.

Scope of works in respect of the plant includes, basic and detail engineering (excluding civil/structural detail design) manufacturing and/or supplying the machinery, equipment, supervision of erection and commissioning and training of the Company's staff.

The price of tender documents in U.S. dollars or Iranian rials is:

\$500 or 1,500,000 rials

The tender document could be purchased at the below address as of July 14, 1996 to the closing of working hours on July 24, 1996 against presentation of a letter of introduction and original receipt of the tender documents price deposited to the Account No. 051-53778 of Bank Tejarat, Imam Khomeini Branch, Tehran, Iran in foreign currency, or Account No. 47228964 of Bank Tejarat, Park Saei Branch, Tehran, Iran in Iranian rials.

Address: 1091 Vali-e Asr Ave. Second Floor,
Mine and Concentrator Expansion Project.
Tehran, 15118, Iran.

Tel: 8721735 Fax: 021-8716770

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IRAN DOMESTIC ECONOMY NEWS

EXCLUSIVE:

District Municipality Earns 150b Rials

BY: NADER ADABI

TEHRAN - District 2 of Tehran Municipality earned 150 billion rials during the past year, said district's Mayor Fazlollah Musavi, in an exclusive interview with IRAN NEWS here yesterday, adding that this figure was only 50 million rials seven years ago (1989).

He held the rise in taxes levied on reconstruction projects responsible for the jump in revenues and said: "We strive to enforce the law correctly and utilize the revenues legally earned by the municipality."

He said District 2 covers an area of 70 sq. km. while Tehran's area is 400 sq. km., adding that his district ranks fourth among other Tehran districts in revenue earnings.

He said one of the remarkable projects underway by District 2 is a 3-km bridge called Yadgar-e Imam in west Tehran linking a few highways to each other. 80 billion rials was spent on this project.

This is one of the largest bridges in Iran if not in the Middle East.

Laying of Gas Pipeline Between Iran, Turkmenistan to Start Soon

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Construction work on a pipeline to transfer Turkmenistan's gas to the Islamic Republic of Iran is due to start by the Iranian Oil Ministry, the Iranian Ambassador to Turkmenistan disclosed yesterday.

The Ambassador, Mehdi Mir Abu-Talebi, added that preliminary studies on the route of the pipeline via Caspian Sea coasts has been completed and required

SUDANESE MINISTER: Cooperation Among OIC Members Should Be Promoted

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Sudanese Minister of Communications Seyed Al-Husseini stressed here yesterday that cooperation in the field of communications among Islamic countries should be strengthened through proper planning.

The Sudanese minister is here to attend the third Meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opened here yesterday.

He called for promotion of trade relations among Islamic countries and exchange of technical know-how and industrial machinery among the OIC members.

Al-Husseini expressed hope that the Islamic Republic's efforts in bringing the OIC PTT ministers together will bear fruit and that the Islamic countries would become further united.

Pollution Threatening Caspian Sea Ecosystem

BANDAR ANZALI, GILAN (IRNA) - Pouring of thousands of tons of contaminated materials into Caspian Sea waters every year, have endangered the water resources and the regional ecosystem, said Dr. Miri, an expert at the Fisheries Research Center here on Tuesday.

He indicated that over 2-40-5



MUSAVI

The budget is to be provided by selling shops under the bridge.

We are hoping to achieve another objective by 1997, to create highways, and required streets in District No. 2, so drivers would be able to reach highways, from various locations, within a maximum of five minutes.

He further justified the permits issued for construction of high-rise buildings which are much safer and economically more appropriate than the regular buildings.

He supported all constructive ideas and said "we welcome joint ventures with private sector."

Moldova Seeks Iranian Investment

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The visiting Minister of Industry of Moldova, Grigore Triboi, in a meeting on Tuesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, called for Iranian investment and cooperation in the industrial and reconstruction sectors of his country.

Referring to high quality of Iran's industrial and agricultural machinery, the Moldovan minister expressed full satisfaction of his country over Iranian-made tractor engines and said Moldova is willing to increase import of such items.

He also said that his country is interested in benefitting from Iran's industrial experience for joint production of tractors, combines and agriculture devices.

Triboi said his country is also keen on Iranian public and private investments in Moldova, and promised that the Moldovan government will provide the required facilities in this respect.

The visiting Moldovan minister of industry briefed the Iranian foreign minister on the latest developments in his country's economic situation as well as the trend of privatization and reconstruction

works in his country.

Velayati, referring to the rapid pace of expansion of ties between Iran and Moldova, said that there is a fertile ground for industrial and agricultural cooperations.

Touching on the valuable experience gained by Iran in the field of reconstruction during the post-war period, Velayati voiced Iran's readiness to help Moldova in national reconstruction work.

Velayati underlined importance of regional and multilateral cooperation and also positive results of such cooperations with the former Soviet states, and said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to have similar cooperations with Moldova.

Laos Seeking Iran's Cooperation in Oil Sector

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Laos is seeking Iran's cooperation in the field of oil industry and training of manpower, it was announced here on Tuesday.

According to the Public Relations Department of the Oil Ministry, visiting Laotian Foreign

Gharazi Urges OIC Members to Expand Telecommunication Networks

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Post, Telephone and Telegraph Mohammad Gharazi here yesterday underlined the need for member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to pay more attention to expanding their telecommunication industry.

He voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with other OIC member states in telecommunication area. Training of manpower, exchange of technological know-how, making use of telecommunication potentials and exchange of information were major items brought up and discussed during the expert meeting of the third OIC ministerial meeting in Tehran, the minister noted.

He further called for invest-



GHARAZI

ment by the Islamic Development Bank to promote telecommunication networks of the Islamic countries and attention of OIC members to establishing telecommunication highways and to joint satellite activities.

Tuesday's Trading at Tehran Stock Exchange

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A total of 5,971,354 shares, worth over 37.5 billion rials, were traded in 1,011 turns for 530 applicants here at Tehran Stock Exchange on Tuesday.

In yesterday's deals, shares of 31 companies increased, while those of 22 others suffered decline.

General index price of shares for Tuesday reached 2,013.33 points, showing a rise of 5.80 points compared to the previous day.

28 Tons of Caviar Extracted in Gilan

BANDAR ANZALI, GILAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - More than 28 tons of caviar were extracted during the spring sturgeon catch season in this Caspian province.

Director-General of the provincial Fisheries, Yousefi, added that during the spring season some 480 fishermen with 120 boats were engaged in catching sturgeon fish.

Iran's International Telecommunication Channels to Double

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's international telecommunication channels will double by the end of the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1995-1999), said an official at Iran's Telecommunications Company.

Deputy for Planning and Expansion Affairs of the company, Reza Rashidi added that presently Iran has about 3,500 international telecommunication channels.

All stages of designing, installation, operation and maintenance of the telecommunication systems are carried out by the Iranian experts, he said.

According to the plan, by 1999 more than 10 million applicants will have their own telephones, he said, adding at present there are about 5.3 million telephone lines in the country.

More on company's activities in post-revolution period, he said that before 1979 only 312 villages had access to communication systems, whereas now the number has reached 12,000.

On the letter of understanding signed between Iran and Azerbaijan on construction of Astara-Baku optical fiber network, he said about 2,200 km of the Silk Road optical fiber project passes through Iran.

Presently, Iranian experts are carrying out various stages of the project including installation, manufacturing and designing.

The 22,000-km Silk Road optical fiber project connects Shang-

hai in China to Frankfurt in Germany.

On foreign contracts of the company, he said construction of the Turkmenistan optical fiber linkage is one of the major projects of the company. Furthermore, the company is involved in telecommunication projects in Uzbekistan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait and Libya.

Iran to Hold Exclusive Trade Fair in Bosnia

TEHRAN (IRNA) - As a sign of solidarity with the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, an exclusive exhibition of Iranian products is to open on Friday, July 12, in Sarajevo.

According to Head of the Exports Promotion Center of Iran, Ali Saeedlou, over fifty Iranian companies will be displaying their products at the 1,000 square-meter plot of land allotted for the exhibition.

He added that the exhibit, to be open till July 19, will also have a sales section for interested buyers of Iranian industrial, mineral, agricultural, foodstuff and textile products.

Saeedlou noted that during the first three months of the current year (started March 20), 34 Iranian exhibitions were held in Iran and abroad.

He added that at present the spacious exhibition ground in

CBI Statistics on Licensed Motor Vehicles

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Some 76,868 passenger cars, 3,203 buses and mini-buses, 21,685 vans, pickups, trucks and trailer-trucks and 37,994 motor-bikes were numbered and received license plates during the previous year, making a total of 139,750 licensed vehicles against 152,686 in 1373, the Economic Statistic Bureau of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) reported.

55% of the said vehicles were passenger cars (mostly sedans), 2.3% buses and mini-buses, 15.5% vans and other trucks and 27.2% were bikes.

57% of the total vehicles throughout the nation were registered in Tehran province.

Out of the above total number 126,811 of the numbered vehicles are burning gasoline, while the fuel system of 12,939 is liquid gas.

Foreign Exchange Rates

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The following are the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates		Export Rates	
		SELLING	BUYING	SELLING	BUYING
Australia	dollar	1,387	1,379	2,379	2,367
Austria	schilling	164	163	282	280
Belgium	(100)francs	5,610	5,578	9,625	9,577
Canada	dollar	1,287	1,280	2,209	2,198
Denmark	krone	299	297	513	511
France	franc	341	339	585	582
Germany	mark	1,155	1,148	1,981	1,971
Italy	(100)liras	114	113	195	196
Japan	(100)yen	1,597	1,606	2,774	2,760
Netherlands	guilder	1,102	1,099	1,899	1,889
Sweden	krone	264	262	450	448
Switzerland	franc	1,409	1,401	2,416	2,404
U.K.	pound	2,704	2,689	4,639	4,616
U.S.	dollar	1,755	1,750	3,015	3,000
U.A.E.	dirham	479	476	820	818

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WORLD

Members to Launch
Information Network



rockets into Silvana village, on the Iranian border."

Silvana is located one kilometer from the Turkish border and 60 kilometers from Iraq.

Bolandian said the particulars of the Iranian people slain or wounded have been delivered to the Turkish delegation which shows that they are not members of the outlawed Kurdish Labor Party (PKK) of Turkey.

He said Iran has border problems with Turkey because the troubled provinces of Turkey are neighboring Iranian territory.

"The answers received from the Turkish delegation have convinced us to refrain from complaining to international organizations," Bolandian pointed out.

demned by the Muslims and non-Muslims for blaspheming Islam. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeini issued a religious decree condemning him to death.

The religious decree was seconded by several countries and banned the book's sale there.

Iran maintains that the Imam has performed a religious duty. The Islamic Republic also maintained that no commandos will be sent to execute the religious decree.

Since the issuance of the Imam's decree, the British government has provided full security for Rushdie who is still in hiding.

Sudanese counterpart, said the source, adding that the Iranian deputy foreign minister is expected to meet and hold talks with high ranking Sudanese officials during his three-day stay in Khartoum.

The Iranian official will also discuss ways and means to launch a research institute in Sudan, concluded the source.

operation among Islamic states in their campaign against the hegemonic schemes of the Zionist regime."

Velayati further stated: "We appreciate the efforts of Syria and know that Damascus has made great efforts to this end. We believe that Syria should not be left alone under these conditions. Iran has always been on Syria's side from the very outset after the (1979) Islamic Revolution and will continue to stand by the people and government of Syria, particularly in their quest to liberate their occupied lands."

Israel in 1979, the first such move by any Arab country. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Jordan have also signed peace accord with Israel after the peace process started in 1993.

Ankara signed a military agreement in February which allows Israel access to Turkey through land, air and sea routes.

Most Muslim countries, particularly Iran, Iraq and Syria expressed concern over the

far-reaching adverse impact of the agreement. Iran and Syria said the accord will threaten their internal security.

Former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller twice in this week maintained that the accord will be honored.

"The agreement will continue... it is binding on the (Turkish) state," she replied to a question about the accord.

Ciller is now serving her country as deputy prime minister and foreign minister after a coalition government led by Islamic Welfare Party, headed by Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan which received a vote of confidence on July 8 from the Turkish parliament with a narrow margin.

Only a few months ago, when Erbakan was in opposition, he called for the accord to be scrapped.

The program of the coalition government formed by Welfare Party and Ciller's True Path Party (center-right) stipulated that Turkey would respect all accords already signed provided they 'were in the interest of (Turkish) national security.'

Ciller was also recently quoted as saying that under Erbakan's premiership Turkey's traditional Western oriented policies would undergo no changes.

Erbakan also softened his earlier anti-West rhetoric when he was asked to form a government in early June by President Suleyman Demirel.

Ciller emphasizes the importance Turkey attaches to the close relations with Western countries to reach its objectives regarding the customs union accord Ankara has signed with the EU.

Mubarak is to meet Erbakan as first foreign leader after his becoming prime minister of a country which has been advocating secularism for the last 73 years.

The Egyptian president has been a fierce opponent of the banned Muslim Brotherhood who has close ties with Erbakan.

Anyway, it will be interesting to see how Mubarak would be able to convince Erbakan that the accord is not in the interest of Turkey or other regional states.

eral times and confirmed that Iran plans to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes only."

"Contrary to Israel, Iran's doors are still open and there are no restrictions as our (nuclear) facilities are for peaceful endeavors," Sheikhholeslam said.

On Israeli and American collaboration, Sheikhholeslam said, "They both dance to the same tune and hail each other."

An observer in Tehran scoffed at Netanyahu's remarks on Iran. He said, "Nothing new in the rightist Likud Party leader's speech. Iran is not in isolation and Iran is not acquiring a nuclear bomb."

He said, "Iran's policy is very clear and Netanyahu's speech provides only comic relief for all who have a clear political vision."

Addressing a press conference earlier Netanyahu said that Israel would not surrender the occupied lands and peace would be acceptable to him only if it provides security for his country.

A report from Washington where Netanyahu is on an official visit said the new prime minister of Israel ruled out a meeting with Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat and insisted that Syria stop supporting what he called 'terrorists.'

"We want to live up to the

agreements, but we can't be the only side to do so," Netanyahu told reporters after a 2 1/2-hour session with President Bill Clinton at the White House.

In a joint press conference, Clinton announced that the U.S. would deliver new anti-terrorist technology to Israel and American experts will also be sent to that country.

Netanyahu declined to comment on whether he would pull back Israeli troops in the volatile West Bank town of Hebron.

He said what political analysts in the region were speculating since the Likud Party came into power in June 21 elections of parliament and direct elections for the prime minister in which Shimon Peres of the Labor Party was defeated.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan from the very first day of the change in the government in Tel Aviv have been trying to convince the people and the leaders of the region that they should adopt 'a wait and see policy.'

Both the King and Mubarak were trying to present Netanyahu in a different light at a time when the prime minister time and again made clear his opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state and the termination of Israel's occupation of Jerusalem.

Sponsors of the Middle East peace process have tried for more than three years to broker a deal in which Israel would agree to return the Golan Heights in exchange for diplomatic recognition and a peace treaty.

In the joint press conference, Clinton said that despite 'some disagreement' with Netanyahu the U.S. commitment to Israel and its security 'remain rock solid.'

Observers in Tehran say that Washington statement made by Netanyahu once more confirmed that Israel is not ready to follow a strategy of land-for-peace.

"It's a clear indication that the peace process will not move," one analyst said and referred to Monday's statement by French President Jacques Chirac who said, "Violence will start if peace process is stopped."

What did Netanyahu achieve in Washington?

"More technical and monetary assistance from the U.S. to crush the movement of those who are fighting for the liberation of their lands," an analyst told IRAN NEWS referring to Clinton's pledge to share missile-defense information with Israel.

Clinton needs Netanyahu as he needs U.S. Jewish votes for his November 5 re-election bid, he said, and wished that Arab leaders may understand this 'bitter fact.'

In a desperate move, Saudi Arabia and Syria yesterday called for world pressure to force Netanyahu to respect the principles of peace and honor its commitment, according to a joint communique issued in Riyadh.

The two sides expressed their commitment to U.N. land-for-peace Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 following a meeting of the joint Saudi-Syrian committee in the Saudi capital.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Sharaa, who co-chaired the meetings with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud al-Faisal, on Tuesday accused Israel of engaging in 'terrorism' and warned the peace process could grind to a halt.

A report from Jerusalem said Israel is willing to withdraw from South Lebanon as part of a new approach to dealing with Syria.

The report said that Netanyahu told Clinton about the South Lebanon withdrawal during their meeting Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia offered its support to Damascus in its struggle "to counter obstacles placed by Israel to free itself of its responsibilities toward the peace process."

"Riyadh totally supports Syria's just claims and efforts to recover its land in line with the resolutions," the statement added.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Sharaa, who co-chaired the meetings with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud al-Faisal, on Tuesday accused Israel of engaging in 'terrorism' and warned the peace process could grind to a halt.

His comments came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was explaining his rightwing policies in Washington to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

At a joint press conference afterwards, Netanyahu refused to soften his opposition to the return of the Golan Heights to Syria, the main stumbling block in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations on ice since February.

The Saudi-Syrian statement also called on Iraq to 'apply all U.N. resolutions' concerning the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf crisis and 'free all Kuwaiti prisoners of war and those of other nationalities.'

A judge Tuesday summoned Rao to answer charges that he helped a clergy defraud a businessman of \$100,000.

According to the report Rao is to appear in the court on July 24 to reply accusations by a London-based Indian businessman that Rao - then foreign minister - promised in 1983 to help him win contracts for supplying newsprint, said Judge Prem Kumar.

An AP dispatch said the tycoon, Lakhubhai Pathak, testified last week that he paid money to a clergy, Nemi Chand Jain, commonly known as Chandraswami, only after meeting Rao in New York.

Chandraswami neither got him the contract nor returned the money.

India's shortest-lived Prime Minister Atal Beharai Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Lall Krishna Advani's name is included in a long list of the politicians of several political parties who have allegedly received bribe while they were in the office.

The BJP government remained in power just for 12 days and had to quit while a confidence vote was under process in the Lok Sabha. Lower house of parliament in the last week of May.

The BJP was replaced by the United Front, an alliance of 13 parties, led by Prime Minister H.V. Deve Gowda on June 1. Gowda's junior Interior Minister Mohammad Taslimuddin had to resign this week as he was accused of kidnapping and beating opponents.

Taslimuddin first resisted all criticism against him with full support of the main player in the United Front, Bihar State's Chief Minister Laloo Prasad. Finally he

Tehran Temperature			
Maximum	37°C		
Minimum	27°C		
Shiny sky with wind			
Temperature extremes till noon today			
High: Dehloran	48°C		
Low: Ardebil	10°C		
Temperature in some major cities of the world on July 10, 1996			
Delhi	35°C	Karachi	31°C
Moscow	33°C	Kuwait	47°C
Paris	19°C	Madrid	29°C
Vienna	17°C	Abu Dhabi	42°C

was forced to resign on Tuesday and was replaced by a Kashmiri Leader Mohammad Maqbool Dar by Deve Gowda.

Today Congress is in opposition and the latest fraud charges against Rao have brought more humiliation for a political organization which brought the mighty British Raj to its knees half a century ago.

Earlier Rao's son, his nephew and several ministers of his Cabinet were released on bail. Some of them are involved in a scandal. According to a report, Indian government bought fertilizer worth \$35 million. The amount of the contract was paid to a Turkish firm but the consignment never reached India. The scandal was made public only when Rao was out of power.

The 111-year-old Congress has lost the auditory which it enjoyed under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, an apostle of non-violence.

Congress now has got a nickname, corrupt, and its leaders have distanced from the poor they claim to represent.

In the aftermath of independence, the Congress was considered an umbrella under which all ideologies and social classes took shelter. This gave it a secular pan-India identity and ensured broad-based public support.

An Indian analyst S. Jaipal Reddy recently commented, "The Congress, particularly in north India has been declining in installment. Its social base has been contrasting and disappearing."

remained unaccounted for.

Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic and his army Commander Ratko Mladic have been indicted on genocide charges by a U.N. war crimes court as a result of the killings. The court, based in the Hague, is expected to issue international arrest warrants for the pair later this week.

Meanwhile, AP reported from Zagreb, Croatia, that continued presence of foreign Islamic fighters in Bosnia poses a serious obstacle to peace and establishment of a stable Muslim-Croat Federation, a Bosnian Croat commander was quoted Tuesday as saying.

"We can see them on the roads, hear them on the radios, their presence is evident," Gen. Drago Dragicevic told the main government-controlled daily Vjesnik in the Croatian capital.

Dragicevic acknowledged that they were unarmed and act as civilians. "But that can also enable them to promptly resume military terrorist activities, as importers of Jihad (Islamic holy war) from Iran and Libya."

Dragicevic is a Croat commander in central Bosnia, where the foreign Islamic fighters are believed to be strongest.

His concerns paralleled those of U.S. officials.

CIA Director John M. Deutch and the U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia, John K. Menzies, have met with Bosnia's Muslim President,

Alija Izetbegovic, and voiced concern that Islamic activists imported to fight Serb rebels are threatening civilians in the former Yugoslav republic.

Diplomatic sources said Deutch was in Zagreb on Monday.

Some of the militants are believed to be Iranian fighters who used marriage to Bosnian Muslims as a cover to remain in the country. Their number was estimated by the U.S. State Department as fewer than 100.

Meanwhile, AFP reported that President Bill Clinton announced on Tuesday a package for training and equipping the armed forces of the Bosnian federation in response to the Parliament's passage of a new defense law.

"The purpose of this program is to assist in providing Bosnia with the ability to defend itself, and thereby promote security and stability in the region," Clinton said in a statement.

The \$100 million package includes communications equipment, small arms and ammunition, main battle tanks, armored personnel carriers, light anti-tank weapons and utility helicopters.

ANESA's report which he said is based on a telephone contact with an official at the said ministry.

The Italian Foreign Ministry has declined to name this official who is authorized to set forth such views.

science books to Afghan universities.

Afghanistan's Minister of Public Health and his accompanying delegation have visited Massih Daneshvari Hospital, a health center, a pharmaceutical company, the Blood Transfusion Center and Labbafinejad Medical Complex.

that his country had no intention to violate Iranian airspace and had such an incident taken place, the Turkish government's will and intention.

In January 1994, a similar attack was made by Turkish aircrafts on Iran's border area in Sardasht yet Ankara formally apologized and compensated for the inflicted damages.

Towards the end of the meeting, Caker indicated that his country will continue mutual respect and stressed on further expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties.

Velayati termed the new Turkish government's policies for good neighborly relations with neighboring states and with the Islamic world as 'positive.'

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

RUSSIAN TROOPS ORDERED TO SEIZE YANDARBIYEV

Russian Warplanes Unleash Firestorm on Southern Chechnya

SHALI, RUSSIA (AFP) - Russian warplanes and heavy artillery yesterday unleashed a firestorm on southern Chechnya, pounding mountain villages in an offensive that killed and wounded numerous civilians.

More than 20 civilians were killed and many others wounded in Russian air raids on the village

of Mekhketi in southeastern Chechnya, local district officials told Itar-Tass news agency.

A local doctor told an AFP correspondent in Shali, just north of Mekhketi, that five wounded civilians who were brought to Shali from the village Tuesday later died.

"Three other civilians with se-

vere burns were in a critical condition and are unlikely to survive," the doctor said.

Mekhketi lies 40 kilometers (28 miles) southeast of the devastated Chechen capital Grozny. The road to the village was blocked by Russian armor yesterday, preventing wounded civilians from reaching the hospital in

Shali. Meanwhile, it is reported that Russian troops have been ordered to find and capture Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev. Interfax news agency quoted a military command spokesman as saying yesterday, "On orders of the commander of troops General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, measures are being taken to search for and seize Yandarbiyev," spokesman Igor Melnikov said.

"These are the adequate measures which General Tikhomirov promised the separatists," he said.

Citing Tepid African Support, U.S. Says U.N. Chief Should Withdraw

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Clinton administration said Tuesday U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali should withdraw his candidacy for a second term given the tepid support shown for him by the vote-rich Africa bloc.

A summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity called Monday for an African to be named the next U.N. chief and recommended "consideration be given" to Boutros-Ghali, an Egyptian.

The declaration was passed with only about a third of the 53 African leaders present. "This is certainly not a regional endorsement of Boutros-Ghali," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

"We believe the appropriate course now is for Mr. Boutros-Ghali to step down and for the United States and other members of the General Assembly to work very hard in identifying a candidate who could take his place," Burns said.

He said the United States is sympathetic to African aspirations for a leader from that continent to replace Boutros-Ghali.

Junta Leader Triumphs in Niger Presidential Poll

NIAMEY (AFP) - Niger's military ruler General Ibrahim Bare Maïnassara won an outright victory in the first round of this week's presidential election, the National Election Commission (CNE) said early yesterday.

Mainassara who seized power in January, won 52.22 percent of the total vote, the CNE said.

The man he overthrew, former President Mahamane Ousmane was second with 19.75 percent, followed by Mamadou Tandja of the National Movement for the Development Society (MNSD) - the country's main party - who polled 15.65 percent.

The two other candidates, Mahamadou Issoufou and Moumouni Djermakoye Adamou garnered 7.6 percent and 4.77 percent respectively.

The results will be handed to the Supreme Court which has 15 days in which to endorse or invalidate the outcome under the country's new electoral code.



MAINASSARA

China Floods Death Toll Rises to 500

BEIJING, CHINA (AFP) - Floods ravaging central, southern and eastern parts of China have claimed at least 500 lives, according to the latest figures compiled yesterday.

The Civil Affairs Bureau of Anhui province in eastern China reported 99 deaths, 29 more than the previous figure, while in Guangxi

region in the south, 71 deaths were reported, 21 more than Tuesday.

The total death toll from all the affected regions over the last ten days was put at 450 at last count late Tuesday.

An official in charge of disaster relief in Guangxi spoke of a pressing need for food, clothing and blankets to help the seven million affected by the floods.

Police Announce One Million Pound Reward for Manchester Bombers

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (AFP) - Police here announced yesterday a one million pound (\$1.5 million) reward for information leading to the arrest of IRA bombers who detonated a massive blast in Manchester last month.

The head of the anti-terrorist branch, Commander John Grieve, announced the move in a bid to find out where the bombers might

have loaded the lorry and wired the device used in the attack which devastated Manchester city center.

At a news conference in Manchester, Grieve said that the money, which had been offered by "concerned members of the community," was being used as an incentive for someone with information to "break ranks."

Much of the city center was devastated by the bomb, the largest ever planted on the British mainland, which exploded on June 16 as shoppers milled around local stores.

Cambodian King Returns After Extended Absence

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA (AP) - King Norodom Sihanouk returned to Cambodia from China yesterday after a three-month absence to take a break from the country's bitter politics and tend to his bad health.

The presence of the King, who has played a prominent role in Cambodia for almost half a century, is considered by many to be vital in easing the country's political tensions.

Relations between Cambodia's co-premiers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, have become increasingly strained since March. They disagree over a variety of issues such as power-sharing, and for a time it looked as though their coalition government would collapse.

"I am still feeling very weak," the King said upon his arrival at Pochentong International Airport, adding that he still had three or four health-related problems. "But I missed you all very much."

Perry: U.S. "Should Retaliate" If Third Country Involved in Attack

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States should retaliate if another country is found to be the source of the terrorist truck bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 Americans, Defense Secretary William Perry said Tuesday.

Perry said it was "reasonable to assume" that the bombers of the Khobar Towers in Dhahran last month "had extensive support from an experienced and well-financed international terrorist organization."

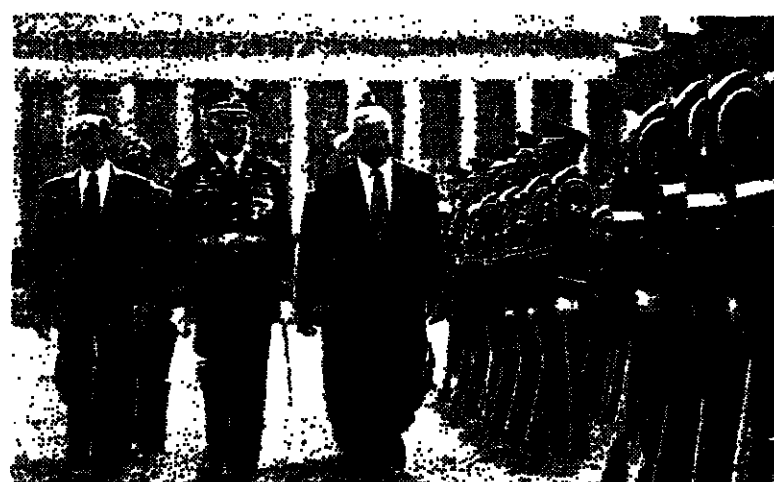
"We must capture and punish the bombers. If we identify another nation as the source of the bombing, we should retaliate," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In response to a question, Perry said investigators had not yet concluded whether the bombers had the support of Syria or any other country, but said he would discuss the evidence in a closed session with the senators.

ABC television network, citing Saudi sources, reported last week that the Saudis are convinced the explosives used in the bombing came from Syria and that the bombers most likely were trained there.

Saying the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia faced a terrorist threat of a new order, Perry said he had instructed the military to take plans to move U.S. forces out of Riyadh and other urban environments to safer locations in Saudi Arabia.

He said "We must expect that the terrorists will not give up on



WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A.: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) looks over U.S. honor guard troops in front of the Pentagon July 9 with Col. David Huntoon (C) and Defense Secretary William Perry (L). Perry hosted a Full Honors Arrival Ceremony to welcome the prime minister to the Pentagon. (AFP Photo)

the goal of driving us from Saudi Arabia and the region. We must not let them succeed. We must not cut and run in the face of these attacks."

Perry, who met with King Fahd after the June 25 bombing, said the king and his advisers understood they faced "a threat that affects not only the regime itself, but also their culture, traditions and honor."

According to Perry, the king emphasized to his ministers that he expected full cooperation between U.S. and Saudi investigators.

The Saudis earlier had failed to respond to an FBI request to interview four men who were subsequently beheaded for a similar

anti-American bombing in November. Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said.

Reports of spotty Saudi cooperation in the wake of the November bombing in Riyadh have drawn fire from some senators, who warned that unless Saudi support improves pressure will grow for the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Perry told the senators the removal of U.S. forces from Saudi Arabia would "seriously compromise" U.S. interests.

Testifying with Perry were the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff General John Shalikashvili and General J.H. Binford Peay, head of the U.S. central command, who defended his commanders' efforts to protect their troops.

Queen Hails Mandela as Savior of South Africa

LONDON (Reuters) - Queen Elizabeth II hailed Nelson Mandela as the savior of South Africa when she honored the political prisoner-turned-president at a glittering Buckingham Palace state banquet on Tuesday night.

It was fitting close to the first day of a long-awaited state visit by the charismatic 78-year-old leader.

In the afternoon, a cheering crowd of more than 6,000 people, many of them black school children, packed stands on horse guards parade ground half a mile (one km) from the palace to watch Mandela inspect red-uniformed royal guards in a ceremony attended by the Queen and Prime Minister John Major.

Royal pomp and ceremony was the order of the day as the man from humble beginnings also lunched at Buckingham Palace and laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown warrior after a visit to Westminster Abbey where he delighted crowds with an impromptu walkabout.

It was all a far cry from the 27 years Mandela spent behind bars in South Africa during the long-

struggle against apartheid. Recalling the sacrifices he made and the suffering he endured, Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday night hailed his wisdom, understanding and experience.



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: South African President Nelson Mandela accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh (R) reviews an honor guard on Horseguards Parade on the first day of his state visit to Britain July 9. During the visit Mandela will address both houses of Parliament and meet the Royal Family. (AFP Photo)

Group Accuses Sudan of Bombing Civilians in South

NAIROBI (AFP) - A church human rights organization yesterday accused the Sudanese government of dropping cluster bombs on southern villages to "inflict terror on civilians" and escalate the war here.

A spokesman for the Swiss-based Christian Solidarity International (CSI) told a news conference here, after a visit to

southern Sudan, that Sudanese air force planes had dropped at least 13 cluster bombs on Chukudum village since June 12.

Some of the bombs fell next to a primary school and a Roman Catholic church on Monday, spokesman Wiebalek Gunnar said. Another bomb exploded 300 meters (yards) away from a hospital run by Norwegian people's aid.

Ariane Launches Satellites for Arab League, Turkey

EVRY, FRANCE (Reuters) - Western Europe's 89th Ariane rocket blasted off from French Guiana on Tuesday carrying satellites for the 21-nation Arab League and Turkey.

The Ariane 441 rocket lifted off at 7:24 p.m. local French Guiana time (22:24 GMT) into a cloudy equatorial night sky.

Reporters at the headquarters of the Ariane Space Company near Paris watched the launch on video screens.

Space officials said the ArabSat-2A satellite separated from the rocket 20 minutes after takeoff.

Four minutes later, the second satellite, Turksat-1C, also separated from Ariane.

The satellites, built by France's Aerospatiale, will be used for telecommunications and television broadcasting.

It was the second Ariane mission since the disastrous failure of an Ariane-5 rocket, the first of a new generation, less than a minute after its maiden launch from the European Space Agency (ESA) launch center in Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America, on June 4.

Lazarenko Reappointed Premier in Ukraine

TOKYO: ben... at A... four... matter... is the...

كندا في الأمل



IRAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Lazarenko Reappointed Premier in Ukraine

KIEV (AFP) - The Ukrainian Parliament yesterday overwhelmingly voted in favor of reappointing Pavel Lazarenko to his post of prime minister, as recommended by President Leonid Kuchma.

Among the mainly Communist deputies, 344 voted in favor of Lazarenko's reappointment and 22 were against. Nine other deputies abstained and 17 stayed away.

Lazarenko, 43, had submitted his government's resignation on July 5, in line with the republic's first post-Soviet constitution adopted last month.

He told the assembly that he would work to protect Ukraine's industrial and farm sector and would lower taxes, adding that he would also focus on reforming the energy sector, which is in deep crisis.

Lazarenko is expected to present his new program to Parliament in September.

Under the constitution passed on June 28, the prime minister must be confirmed by Parliament, and Kuchma had met with political parties over the past few days to muster support for Lazarenko.

Congress Backs Former Indian PM

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's Congress (I) Party yesterday dismissed fraud allegations leveled against former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and said he would remain the party president.

"The question of Mr. Rao's resignation (as party president) does not arise," Congress General Secretary B.P. Maurya told reporters.

Party spokesman Vidhai Gadgil said Rao's resignation was not discussed at a meeting of senior party leaders here late Tuesday.

A New Delhi magistrate issued a summons to the 75-year-old Rao on Tuesday asking him to appear before a court on July 24 to answer allegations he had cheated a businessman out of \$100,000 in 1983.

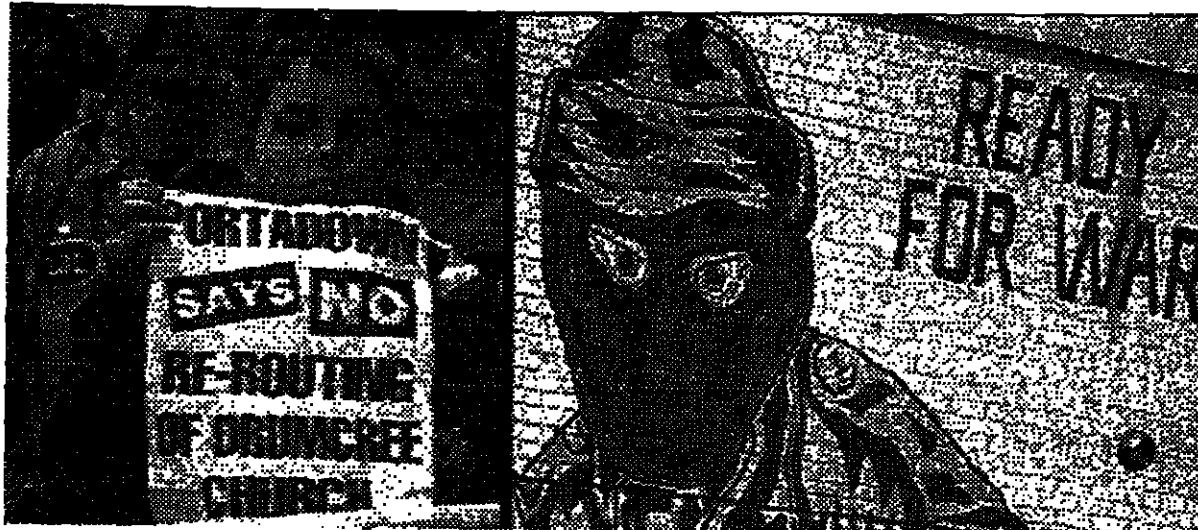
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Prem Kumar on Tuesday declared the former premier a co-accused in the fraud case lodged by businessman Lakshubhai Pathak against a jet-setting Hindu mystic, Chandra Prasad.

Kumar said there was evidence the former prime minister was a party to a conspiracy to defraud Pathak.



TOKYO, JAPAN: Visiting Tunisian President Zine El Abidine ben Ali (2nd L) and Japanese Emperor Akihito (R) shake hands at Akasaka Guest House July 10. The president is on a four-day state visit here to discuss Japan-Tunisia mutual matters with Japanese political and business leaders. At left is the president's wife Leila ben Ali.

(AFP Photo)



Unrest Grips N. Ireland, More Troops Planned

BELFAST (Reuters) - Britain is preparing to send more troops to Northern Ireland, where violence spread across the province for the third night running.

As the confrontation between police and pro-British Protestant "Loyalist" marchers which sparked the violence continued into yesterday morning, towns across Northern Ireland and parts of Belfast were hit by rioting.

Police reported a wave of petrol bomb attacks. Roads were blocked as mobs built barricades and set them on fire, and police said they had received reports of two shooting incidents, although there were no reports of any injuries.

A British army spokesman in London said the government was preparing to deploy two extra battalions of troops - around 1,000 men - in Northern Ireland, adding that the troops could be sent to the province by the end of the week if needed.

If the battalions are deployed, it would be the first increase in troop numbers since the collapse of a truce by the outlawed Irish Republican Army in February this year.

The unrest was sparked by the police decision to stop the exclusively Protestant Orange Order parade through the Catholic

neighborhood at Portadown, 25 miles (35 km) south of Belfast, to avoid sectarian confrontations.

Late on Tuesday, scores of missile-throwing marchers tried to breach police lines blocking their progress on the outskirts of Portadown. Police firing plastic bullets drove them back.

Bomb disposal experts also blew up a car near Portadown after reports that it contained a bomb. But police said the report turned out to be a hoax. Motorists across the province were advised by police to stay at home.

As Belfast echoed to the sound of sirens and helicopters hovering overhead, the leader of the Unionist Party, David Trimble, said he hoped to meet representatives of the four main churches later yesterday to discuss a way out of the impasse.

A spokesman for the head of the Catholic church on the partitioned island said Cardinal Cahal Daly was abroad, although efforts were being made to contact him.

Prime Minister John Major warned on Tuesday the unrest could put back the search for peace in Northern Ireland.

Describing the unrest as "intense," he told parliament: "The search for peace in Northern Ireland will certainly not be assisted

by such behavior. It could well be put back."

But Major told the main Protestant Unionist parties at a tense meeting in London on Tuesday that the province's chief police constable, Sir Hugh Annesley, had his full support.

Unionist leaders have accused the police of making a serious misjudgment in their decision to block the march.

Trimble said he saw no solution unless marchers were allowed along what they say is their traditional route. A similar ban last year caused riots and a three-day standoff until a token number of "Orangemen" were allowed to pass along the route.

Democratic Unionist Leader Paisley warned that Northern Ireland could become a "powder keg" unless there was a rapid resolution to the standoff at Portadown.

The province's mainstream Unionist parties, who are committed to keeping Northern Ireland British, blame the British and Irish governments for the unrest.

The ban is seen by Unionist leaders like Trimble and Paisley as the latest example of appeasement by the government in London of Irish Republican militants like the IRA who want an end to British rule and a united Ireland.

Hurricane Bertha Bashes Bahamas, Inches Closer to U.S. Shore

NASSAU, BAHAMAS (AP) - Bending trees to the ground and knocking out electricity, Hurricane Bertha bashed the Bahamas with high winds and heavy rains as it inched closer to the U.S. coastline yesterday.

Four people were left dead in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands before the storm moved out of the Caribbean, brushed past the Turks and Caicos islands and veered northwest through the Bahamas with winds of 105 mph (168 kph).

Forecasters expect Bertha to skirt the east coast anywhere from northern Florida to Delaware, with a possible U.S. landfall later this week. The National Weather Service warned of heavy surf for the southeast U.S. coast over the next day or two as the storm edged nearer to the Florida shore.

Bomb Explodes in Granada

GRANADA, SPAIN (AFP) - A small bomb exploded in Granada's famed Alhambra gardens early yesterday but there were no casualties, authorities said.

Police said the bomb, which went off at 9:30 a.m. (07:30 GMT), contained 300 grams (10 ounces)

of explosives.

Shortly before the blast, an anonymous caller claiming to speak for the Basque separatist group ETA called the pro-ETA daily Egin to warn that an explosion was imminent. The Granada Red Cross received a similar call.

New Afghan Premier Lays down Government Policy

KABUL (AFP) - Afghanistan's new premier yesterday pledged tough steps to protect civilians from official crime and corruption and imposed strict Islamic rules on the country's civil servants.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former opposition chief who took office just two weeks ago, unveiled an ambitious law and order program aimed at halting corruption and restoring stolen property to its legal owners.

Speaking to 2,500 civil servants, he also warned that women would be required to wear traditional Muslim dresses and head covers and that officials who did not stop work at prayer time would be sacked.

"We expect civil servants to observe the principles of Islam, so prayers must be performed by all workers," he said in the address which was broadcast on national radio and television.

"When the call to prayer is made, all workers will stop what they are doing and go to prayers. I consider it proper that those who do not heed this rule will be dismissed," he warned the whispering group of officials.

He added that he hoped Afghanistan would one day boast a society which would grind to a complete halt when the five-times daily prayer call was made.

The premier maintained that women would retain their equal economic role in this relatively unconservative Islamic society, but warned that women civil servants would now have to obey a strict dress code.

"Women can work, have capital and can own property, but she must wear a dignified and decent Islamic costume which should preserve their religious and ethnic identity," he said.

Yeltsin Says Government Open to New Parties

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin said yesterday that his new government could include members of different parties as long as "they forget their partisan positions."

"I'm not against representatives from this or that party working in the government, on one condition: that they forget their partisan positions," he said in an address on Ort state television.

He also repeated his backing for Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to retain his post as the head of his government and that economic reform would continue. The decision must be approved by



the Lower House of Parliament, the state Duma.

Afghan, Iran Health Issues Discussed

503kg Narcotics Seized

The World at a Glance

KARLSTAD, SWEDEN - A powerful explosion ripped through a small store in western Sweden early yesterday, leveling the building and blasting goods out into the street, police said.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM - The crisis in the beef industry created by fears over "mad cow" disease will have cost the European Union 1.5 billion ecus (\$2.1 billion) by the end of 1996 and is far from over, Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler warned yesterday.

ASSIUT, EGYPT - At least 22 people have died, including 11 infants, in a heat wave that has sent temperatures soaring above 38°C (100°F) in Egypt this week, police said yesterday.

JERUSALEM - Police said yesterday they had arrested an Israeli man accused of torturing two Palestinian children who sneaked into his farm near the boundary with the West Bank.

PORT MORESBY - Nineteen people, including two babies, died when a Twin Otter commuter aircraft crashed in Papua New Guinea's rugged central highlands on Tuesday, officials said here yesterday.

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN - Firefighters recovered five bodies yesterday from the debris of a devastating fire a day earlier that gutted 30 shops in Peshawar's congested old quarter.

(DISPATCHES)

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One Million People in Bombay Put Up with Dangerous Buildings

BOMBAY (AFP) - More than one million people in this bustling metropolis live or work in thousands of nearly 100-year-old decrepit buildings, certified dangerous for habitation by city authorities.

"We have estimated Bombay has more than 18,000 old buildings which could crash any time," Bombay Sheriff Subrikumar Choudhury said here. "More than 1.2 million people are estimated to live or work in these buildings."

Choudhury, a civil engineer, ordered a survey of dangerous buildings after an apartment block collapsed in central Bombay in March, killing 23 people in the worst such disaster here in a decade.

He said about 75 percent of the dilapidated buildings were in downtown and central Bombay and were between 80 and 100 years old. Most were in urgent need of major repairs and reconstruction.

Every year some 10 old buildings collapse, killing about 50 people on average. Most collapses take place during tropical rains which lash the city between June and September.

"The rains play havoc with these buildings," Choudhury said. "The atmospheric moisture has a lot of salt which corrodes steel bars and reduces the buildings' life."

Bombay usually gets between 80 and 100 inches (203 and 254 centimeters) of rain during the rainy season.

Real estate analysts say India's archaic rent control laws, which

froze property rents more than 40 years ago, were the main impediment to property owners' repairing and renovating old buildings.

The laws make it impossible for owners to evict tenants. Moreover tenants can gain "statutory tenancy" which enables them and their descendants to remain without a lease in a property they inhabit.

"Rents in old buildings currently are the same as they were more than 40 years ago," a real estate developer, Rajesh Seth, told AFP. "It is uneconomical for owners to repair and maintain buildings with such absurdly low returns."

Seth said while rents remain frozen, property taxes and costs have shot up. "Rents are not enough to meet property taxes, so owners leave the old buildings to their fate," he said.

Landlords in Bombay have to shell out more than half of their own property's values if they want to buy out their tenants.

"There is simply no incentive to maintain old buildings," Seth said.

Most of Bombay's dilapidated buildings are in working class suburbs, and many are held up by wooden props erected as a bandaid measure by a government agency which is supposed to inspect and repair buildings.

But very few buildings get repaired and the props remain in place for years before the buildings collapse with age.

Architect Ramesh Prabhu said most of the repairs and reconstruction

done by the state government were of poor quality "and the buildings are no better off than earlier."

"There is no proper supervision. Neither the architect nor the structural engineer visit the site, and the contractor does the work unsupervised. This is another major cause of building collapse," Prabhu said.

Sheriff Choudhury said he planned to ask the state government to buy out old and dilapidated buildings and charge the repairs and reconstruction to the tenants.

"Huge amounts of money are needed to repair and rebuild these buildings," he said. "Large numbers of them are beyond repair and have to be torn down and rebuilt."

"The government has to step in. It is impossible for the landlords to put in this kind of money. Something will have to be done soon. It is dangerous to continue living in such buildings."

UNFPA CHIEF:

AIDS Will Kill 10m People Before End of Century

TEHRAN (United Nations Information Center) - Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Dr. Nafis Sadik, has said that by the end of century, more than 10 million people would have died of AIDS, leaving behind suffering orphans and dependents.

"About five people every minute contract the HIV infection which leads eventually to AIDS,"

CANBERRA (Reuters) - Australians strongly support voluntary euthanasia - including lethal injections - despite opposition from political, religious and community leaders, a new poll published on Tuesday found.

The finding of the Australian newspaper's newpoll comes as legal and political challenges are preventing dying patients committing suicide under the world's first voluntary euthanasia law which went into force last week in the remote Northern Territory.

The poll found 75 percent of those surveyed agreed doctors should be allowed to comply with a dying patient's request to end his or her life, compared with 18 percent who disagreed.

And 63 percent of all respondents agreed doctors should be allowed to give lethal injections, compared with 28 percent who disagreed.

Cancer-stricken taxi driver Max Bell, 66, is seeking to be the first to use the controversial law, but has been unable to win the required support from two doctors

and a psychiatrist.

"I'm not living. It's just existing and I don't see the point," Bell said in a television interview.

Bell drove an old taxi to the territory across thousands of kilometers of desert from the New South Wales mining town of Broken Hill to be the first to kill himself under the new law.

He is now bed-ridden and unable to eat solids.

Conservative Prime Minister John Howard, elected in March on a platform of traditional family values and economic reform, has publicly declared strong opposition to the territory law.

Howard has supported moves for a government politician to introduce his own bill in parliament for Canberra to override the territory legislation, party officials said.

Australia's constitution gives the national government strong powers over territories, which do not have the same rights as states.

Labor opposition leader Kim Beazley has voiced his opposition to the territory's law and Deputy

Prime Minister Tim Fischer has condemned it as promoting a culture of death and turning doctors into killers.

Church, medical and Aboriginal leaders have also come out publicly against voluntary euthanasia.

Tuesday's newpoll, which surveyed 1,200 adults nationwide by telephone, was the latest in a series on euthanasia.

Lead Poisoning Threatens More than Half of China's Urban Children

BEIJING (AFP) - More than half of China's urban children face the risk of lead poisoning, the China Daily reported.

The newspaper, quoting health experts, said 51.6 percent of children in urban regions are exposed to poisonous levels of lead. The experts said the amount of lead in the blood of Chinese children has increased "considerably" in recent years, due to the rise in industrial pollution.

The figure released earlier coincided with the opening in Shanghai of China's First Medical Center specializing in treatment of children suffering from lead poisoning.

The illness can cause diarrhea and vomiting but poisoning is more often chronic and characterized by abdominal pain, muscle pains, anemia and nerve and brain damage. Children are particularly vulnerable to excessive lead levels in automobile exhaust fumes.

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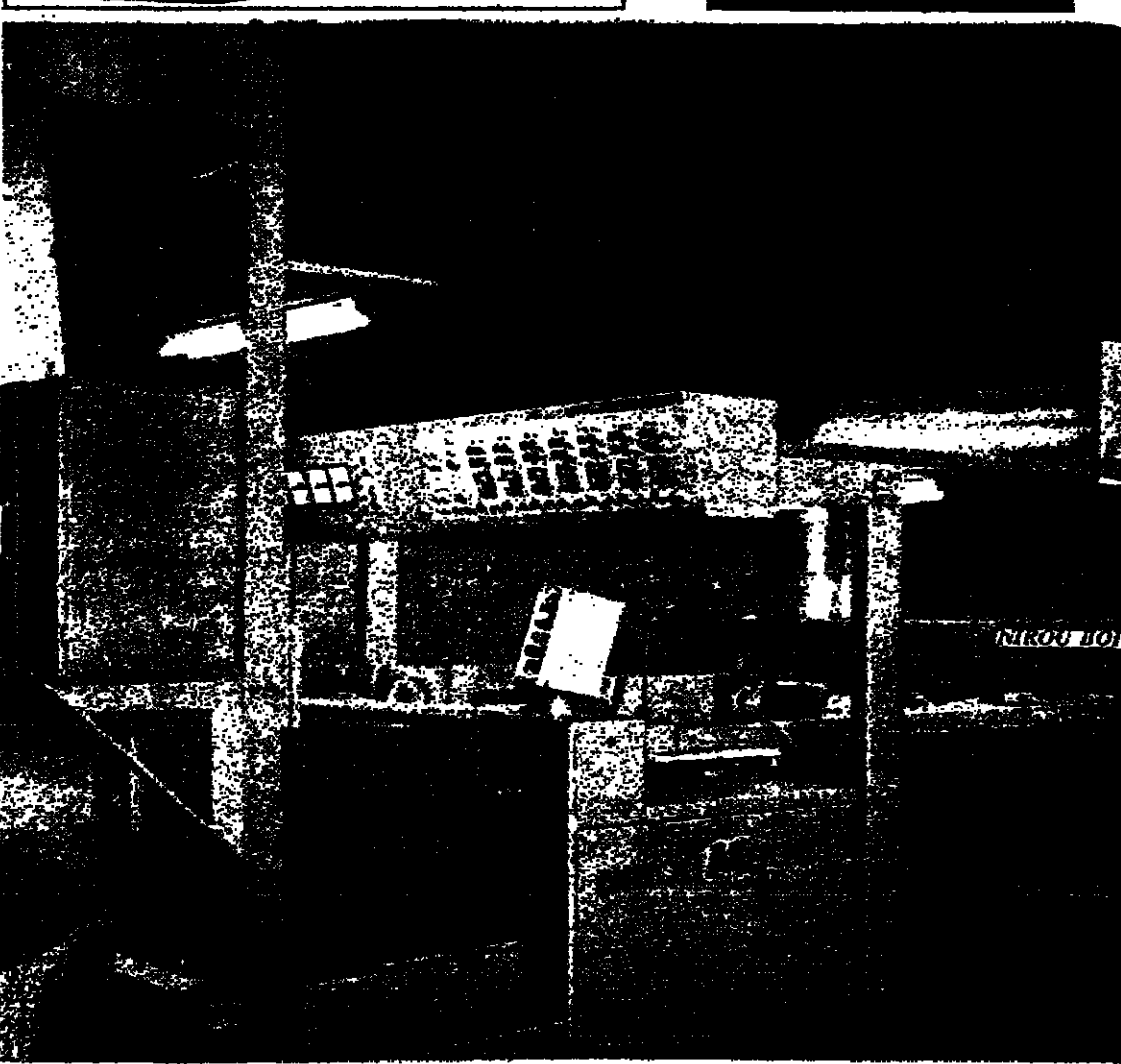
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IRAN

FEATURE NEWS

AIDS Breakthroughs Beyond Reach of Poor Nations

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The last few months have brought gratifying advances in fighting the virus that causes AIDS, but the hefty price tags raise disturbing questions about who will have access to the life-prolonging therapies.

The new drug regimes can cost \$12,000 to \$16,000 a year - and nobody yet knows how many years people will have to take the drugs or at what dosage.

For a middle-income person in a rich country, \$16,000 is a lot of money to spend on medicine each year. For a poor person in an impoverished country, it is not even within the realm of imagination.

"There are new drugs, but they are expensive, and a majority (of people around the world) won't have access to them at this time," said Dr. Daniel Tarantola, an AIDS

expert at the Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, one of thousands of experts grappling with these issues next week at the eleventh International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"I hope at some point there can be a little bit of innovation in how drugs are delivered" to poor nations, said Timothy Rothermel of the U.N. Development Program, one of several agencies co-sponsoring UNAIDS, aimed at addressing the epidemic's spread and impact in the developing world.

Globally, the best way to fight AIDS will be a vaccine. But despite recent advances in the lab and in the clinic, a vaccine still appears to be a long way off.

Until then, prevention and public health education remain the only weapons. And in nations that

can scarcely afford an Aspirin tablet, paying for ambitious prevention campaigns is a difficult task, according to numerous researchers and health policy experts interviewed recently.

Recognizing AIDS as both a health and an economic development issue, the World Bank has also committed a total of nearly \$700 million to more than 60 projects around the world aimed at stopping the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The high costs of drugs is not the only barrier. The dosing schedule of the new medicines is elaborate and patients must be carefully monitored in ways that much of the world, particularly the poorer nations where health spending per person is only about \$10 a year, is unequipped.

In wealthier countries, social welfare and public insurance pro-

grams can provide at least a partial safety net. However, the high cost and the sheer number of different drugs involved, place some strains on social systems.

For instance, the Medicaid Program in the United States covers about half the people with AIDS, and nine out of 10 children with AIDS.

But Medicaid costs were spiraling even before the new AIDS drugs came on the scene, and both state and federal lawmakers have been looking hard for ways to tamp down costs.

There are some bright spots on prevention, according to Tarantola. At the Vancouver conference, researchers are expected to share some positive outcomes of some innovative prevention programs in developing nations and examine the best ways to use drugs to avoid passing HIV from infected women to their newborn children.

Doctors Bent on Removing Knee Pain

Rheumatologists hope that one of the largest studies of its kind will shed the first light on ways of reducing or preventing knee pain.

The £500,000 two-year multidisciplinary study, funded by the UK Department of Health, will be carried out at Nottingham university's rheumatology unit in the English Midlands and led by Dr. Michael Doherty, a Reader in Rheumatology from the university who is based at Nottingham's City Hospital.

The study, which follows on from work funded by the UK Arthritis and Rheumatism Council (ARC) into muscle strength and factors that affect or influence knee pain, will focus on the risk factors associated with osteoarthritis, which is the commonest cause of pain or disability in the elderly.

Dr. Doherty reported on the

ARC work: "The strongest association we noticed was a correlation between anxiety and depression with knee pain, but factors such as being overweight or having reduced muscle strength were also noted in people knee pain. If factors like low muscle tone, anxiety and depression do correlate with knee pain, these are things that we can change."

The researchers will now carry out a randomized, controlled study of 800 people without an upper age limit and look at the effects of simple training, exercise and contact with others. Dr. Doherty explained: "If muscle training does show that people with the symptoms of knee pain improve, it can be used as a means of secondary prevention, but it could lead to the ability to prevent people getting it all."

(Courtesy of LPS)

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The laws make it impossible for owners to evict tenants. Moreover tenants can gain "statutory tenancy" which enables them and their descendants to remain without a lease in a property they inhabit.

"Rents in old buildings currently are the same as they were more than 40 years ago," a real estate developer, Rajesh Seth, told AFP. "It is uneconomical for owners to repair and maintain buildings with such absurdly low returns."

Seth said while rents remain frozen, property taxes and costs have shot up. "Rents are not enough to meet property taxes, so owners leave the old buildings to their fate," he said.

Landlords in Bombay have to shell out more than half of their own property's values if they want to buy out their tenants.

"There is simply no incentive to maintain old buildings," Seth said.

Most of Bombay's dilapidated buildings are in working class suburbs, and many are held up by wooden props erected as a bandaid measure by a government agency which is supposed to inspect and repair buildings.

But very few buildings get repaired and the props remain in place for years before the buildings collapse with age.

Architect Ramesh Prabhu said most of the repairs and reconstruction

done by the state government were of poor quality "and the buildings are no better off than earlier."

"There is no proper supervision. Neither the architect nor the structural engineer visit the site, and the contractor does the work unsupervised. This is another major cause of building collapse," Prabhu said.

Sheriff Choudhury said he planned to ask the state government to buy out old and dilapidated buildings and charge the repairs and reconstruction to the tenants.

"Huge amounts of money are needed to repair and rebuild these buildings," he said. "Large numbers of them are beyond repair and have to be torn down and rebuilt."

"The government has to step in. It is impossible for the landlords to put in this kind of money. Something will have to be done soon. It is dangerous to continue living in such buildings."

UNFPA CHIEF:

AIDS Will Kill 10m People Before End of Century

TEHRAN (United Nations Information Center) - Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Dr. Nafis Sadik, has said that by the end of century, more than 10 million people would have died of AIDS, leaving behind suffering orphans and dependents.

"About five people every minute contract the HIV infection which leads eventually to AIDS,"

CANBERRA (Reuters) - Australians strongly support voluntary euthanasia - including lethal injections - despite opposition from political, religious and community leaders, a new poll published on Tuesday found.

The finding of the Australian newspaper's newpoll comes as legal and political challenges are preventing dying patients committing suicide under the world's first voluntary euthanasia law which went into force last week in the remote Northern Territory.

The poll found 75 percent of those surveyed agreed doctors should be allowed to comply with a dying patient's request to end his or her life, compared with 18 percent who disagreed.

And 63 percent of all respondents agreed doctors should be allowed to give lethal injections, compared with 28 percent who disagreed.

Cancer-stricken taxi driver Max Bell, 66, is seeking to be the first to use the controversial law, but has been unable to win the required support from two doctors

and a psychiatrist.

"I'm not living. It's just existing and I don't see the point," Bell said in a television interview.

Bell drove an old taxi to the territory across thousands of kilometers of desert from the New South Wales mining town of Broken Hill to be the first to kill himself under the new law.

He is now bed-ridden and unable to eat solids.

Conservative Prime Minister John Howard, elected in March on a platform of traditional family values and economic reform, has publicly declared strong opposition to the territory law.

Howard has supported moves for a government politician to introduce his own bill in parliament for Canberra to override the territory legislation, party officials said.

Australia's constitution gives the national government strong powers over territories, which do not have the same rights as states.

Labor opposition leader Kim Beazley has voiced his opposition to the territory's law and Deputy

Prime Minister Tim Fischer has condemned it as promoting a culture of death and turning doctors into killers.

Church, medical and Aboriginal leaders have also come out publicly against voluntary euthanasia.

Tuesday's newpoll, which surveyed 1,200 adults nationwide by telephone, was the latest in a series on euthanasia.

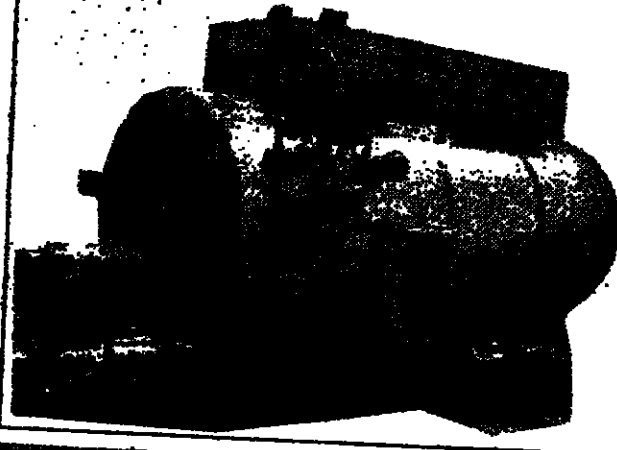
Lead Poisoning Threatens More than Half of China's Urban Children

BEIJING (AFP) - More than half of China's urban children face the risk of lead poisoning, the China Daily reported.

The newspaper, quoting health experts, said 51.6 percent of children in urban regions are exposed to poisonous levels of lead. The experts said the amount of lead in the blood of Chinese children has increased considerably in recent years, due to the rise in industrial pollution.

The figure released earlier coincided with the opening in Shanghai of China's First Medical Center specializing in treatment of children suffering from lead poisoning.

The illness can cause diarrhea and vomiting but poisoning is more often chronic and characterized by abdominal pain, muscle pains, anemia and nerve and brain damage. Children are particularly vulnerable to excessive lead levels in automobile exhaust fumes.

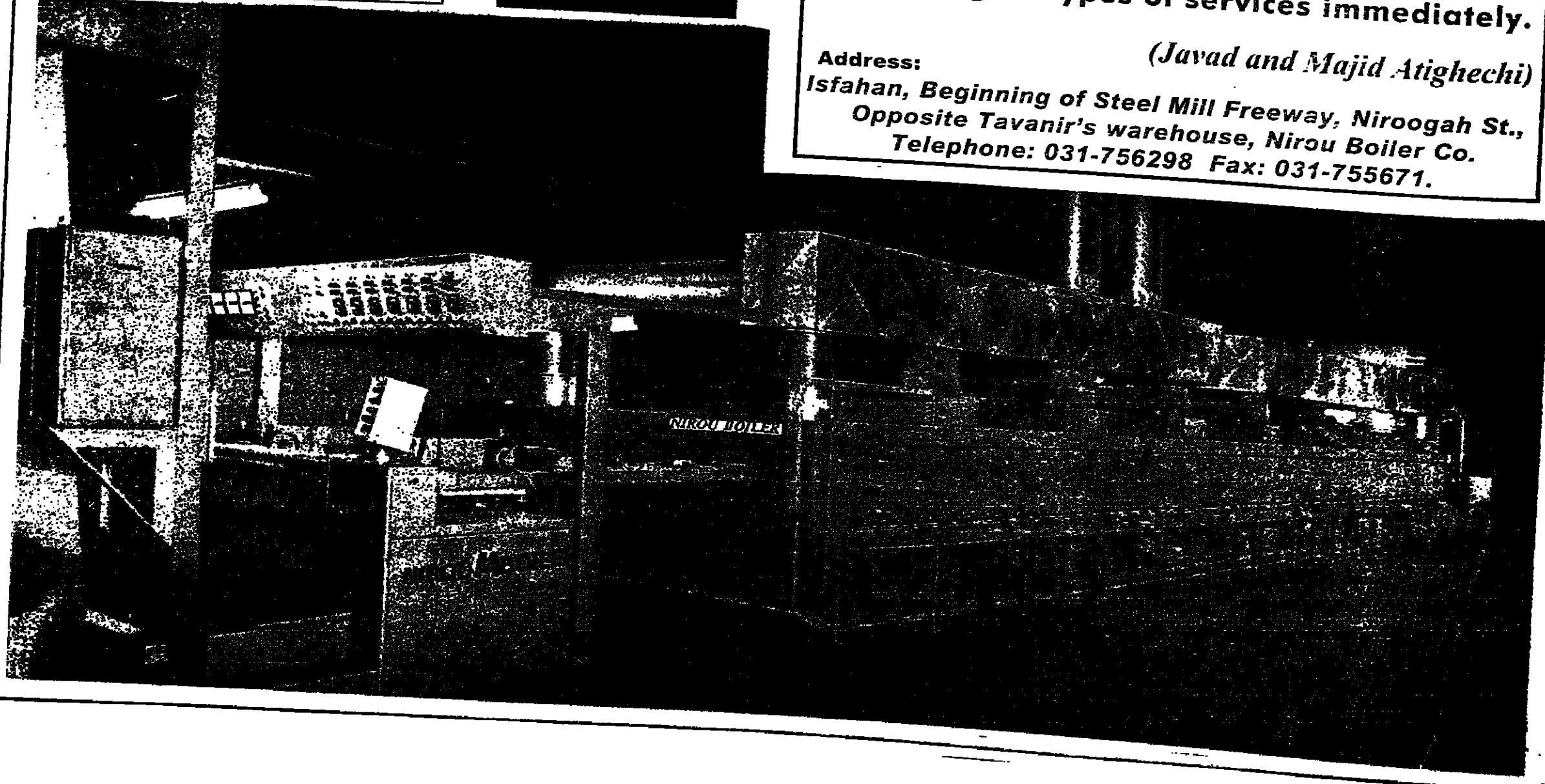


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In the Name of the Most High

Call for Papers

Kurd Erudites Congress

With the succor of the Almighty and support of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with the aim of promoting and enhancing the Iranian learning, culture, language, literature, and art to crystallize and introduce the principles of thought, recognize the genuine pillars of belief, and combat cultural inroad and self-abnegation, the scholars and experts on culture and art will convene in the second half of Shahrivar (September) in Sanandaj which is the cradle of Iran's culture and literature to hold the Kurd Erudites Congress in order to honor, glorify, and laud the efforts made by these academic and cultural dignitaries.

To this end, a number of erudites and scholars of the fertile land of Sanandaj will be introduced at the congress. All professors, researchers, scholars, and thinkers are invited to forward their precious research reports and articles on the following subjects to the congress secretariat by at most August 20, 1996:

1. The biography and criticism of the works of the erudites
2. Impacts of the Quran, hadith (traditions), and Islamic sources on the works of the erudites
3. Islamic and Iranian culture and civilization in the works of the erudites
4. Islamic mysticism and sufism in Iran and its branches in Kurdistan
5. The Holy Prophet (S) and his Household as reflected in the works of the erudites
6. The erudites' concern for preservation of the Islamic and cultural identity and human values
7. Eloquence, aestheticism, and perception of meaning in the works of the erudites
8. Survey of the poetry and prose of the erudites in Persian, Kurdish, and Arabic
9. Poetic forms and concepts and their features in Kurdish language
10. Activities of the erudites in social and political scenes
11. Comparative study, etymology, and study of the relationship of Iranian languages by considering common words and terms
12. Consideration of the awareness of the erudites of the Divine words and Quranic exegesis with a view to their extant works
13. Study of the developments and causes of the historical and literary transformations of Iranian languages, in particular Kurdish
14. Bibliography and introduction of the published or unpublished works of the erudites

NOTE: Each speaker would have 20 minutes to deliver his article and 5 minutes to recite poems.

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- | | |
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| 4. Seyed Mohammad Amin Sheikh-ul-Islami (Heyman) | 11. Mullah Ahmad Tarjanizadeh |
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Organizing Committee of the Kurd Erudites Congress

ADDRESS:

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Shangri-la, the Closest Approximation of Eden

James Hilton dreamed of a paradise tucked in earth's most inhospitable terrain, a lush valley where reality meets faith, where the soul and mind are cultivated and the body enjoys youth that seems everlasting.

NEW YORK (AP) - In his novel "Lost Horizon," the British author gave this Tibetan promised land a name and face: Shangri-la, the valley of the blue moon, where Briton Hugh Conway is brought and forever captivated.

Now, 64 years later, two Tibet independence advocates have produced a worthy sequel with a political twist. Set mostly in 1966, "Shangri-la" revisits the mysterious Lamaseri to document its struggle to survive the purges and destructiveness of China's Cultural Revolution.

"Something used to be right in Tibet. People were happy. And I don't think it's right anymore," says Eleanor Cooney, who collaborated on the novel with Daniel Altieri, a student of the Chinese classics.

In aficionados' eyes, Tibet itself was once paradise - a haven for spiritual pursuits, contemplation, study. But China's military entered Tibet in 1950, saying the land was historically Chinese, and the new tale is spun against that backdrop.

"It's a useful fable," Cooney says. "It says that any paradise

can be threatened, any paradise can be destroyed."

In the original, Conway, a British diplomat and World War I veteran, is one of four people on a plane diverted to a desolate pocket of Tibet in 1930. Porters lead them on a precarious journey to Shangri-la, where they encounter a series of inexplicable events that culminate in a revelation: they are in the planet's closest approximation of Eden.

The High Lama, Father Perault, a European cleric more than 200 years old, dies and passes the valley's destiny to Conway, who ultimately leaves Shangri-la against his better judgment. The book ends with his whereabouts unknown, though the implication is that he has tried to return.

"Shangri-la" picks up in 1966 assuming that he did. Conway, barely aged, has been high lama for more than 30 years when he must risk health and life by leaving the valley.

A modern-world intrusion forces his hand: he must divert Gen. Zhang of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, which is poised to plunder Tibet's treasures and crush its way of life in the name of the forces of conformity and "progress" unleashed by Mao Tse-Tung.

The battle is the classic struggle between individualism and conformity. Shangri-la represents excellence and personal cultivation.

No one knows where Hilton came up with the name "Shangri-la," Cooney and Altieri like to believe he based it on Shambhala, the Tibetan legend of a paradise that may be earthly, may be spiritual or both.

"There was this perfect foil - this new wave of destruction that was coming to this ancient land,"

Altieri says. "And within that was this real myth of Shambhala - the nexus between the physical and the ideal."

The wily Zhang, searching for Shambhala, has many trump cards. He's his own man, holding his own in a tide of groupthinkers, and he proves a worthy adversary. But Conway, too, has an ace: Zhang's daughter, a dreamer and a romantic.

For Altieri, China's 1966-76 great proletarian Cultural Revolution - Mao's purge of intellectuals and the effort to leave "old thought" behind that spiraled out of control - is far too obscure in the West.

"The Cultural Revolution is one of the most bizarre events of our time," Altieri says. "In a way, politics became a religion - a repressive religion. The evil that was visited on Tibet was always bad, but it suddenly had a new driving force behind it. So we put Shangri-la in its path."

Today, hotels across Asia bear the name Shangri-la, and Tibet is under tight Chinese control. Beijing calls it rule of law; the Tibetans - and their exiled Dalai Lama, who oversees a government-in-exile in Dharmasala, India - consider it occupation.

Outside Tibet, activists work to aid it. Last month, a rock festival in California on behalf of Tibetan independence drew some of popular music's top acts.

"A lot of people think the Shangri-la myth is detrimental to the Tibetan cause," says Erin Potts, co-founder of the Milarepa Fund, a Tibet activist organization that sponsored the concert.

"But not everybody is going to want to go to a lecture about Tibet and hear about it," she says. "That's why books like this can

work. You get the word out by hitting people on all sorts of different levels."

Cooney and Altieri have collaborated before, most notably on a Buddhist murder mystery set in Tang dynasty China. They had devised a Tibet tale laced with reincarnation and magic. When they submitted it to their editors, word came back: this could be developed into a "Lost Horizon" sequel.

They read old travel books, watched Tibetan movies and immersed themselves in the culture that Hilton alluded to but never really depicted in detail.

Cooney, 47, an atheist, and Altieri, 49, "basically one too," nonetheless adore the idea of a haven, if not a heaven, where the world's wisdom and knowledge are stored. They're hoping their tale will captivate the world.

"Updating all those myths will definitely play nicely into the world people's psyche. The ground is very fertile for that right now," says William Ward, a professor at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA., who studies how Americans perceive Asia.

Altieri, who like Cooney and Hilton has never visited Tibet, especially loves speculating on the chance a place like Shangri-la might give the world.

"To write this, I had to believe it was possible, even in this late time, to have a land still hidden in this trodden earth of ours," Altieri says. "You want to believe. You want to believe that such an experiment would be possible on this planet - a place where you can reseed humanity. You want to believe something like that could really last. I don't believe it. But it doesn't mean I don't wish it could happen."

Makhmalbaf's 'The Cyclist' Is Screened at Karlovy Vary

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The Iranian feature-length movie "The Cyclist" is to be screened at the 31st Karlovy Vary International Film Festival which is being held in the Czech Republic from July 5-13.

Directed by the world-re-

flood victims.

In the film the protagonist, called Nassim, needs money to pay for the hospital expenses of his ailing wife. But his mad gamble turns out to be a futile attempt as the fruit of his labor is reaped by other people.



nowned Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf "The Cyclist" is to be presented at a non-competitive section of the Karlovy Vary Festival titled "The Arena of Independents".

"The Cyclist" is based on a real-life incident which the Iranian innovative director had witnessed as a young boy. A Pakistani refugee had decided to raise money for flood victims in his country by wagering to ride a bicycle non-stop for ten days. The man collapsed on the 7th day, and then people began to collect charity for

"The Cyclist" has already been screened at numerous world festivals and has procured a number of prestigious awards.

The Karlovy Vary International Film Festival will feature more than 200 films of which 17 will be competing for the main prize of the Crystal Globe, while 21 films have been entered in a competition for documentary films.

Founded in 1946, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival is one of the oldest film events in Europe.

New Bids Asked for MGM

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The investment banker handling the sale of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. has reportedly asked potential buyers to submit new offers for the revived movie studio.

Lazard Freres and Co. told the prospects it wants the new bids by today and hopes to reach a decision by Monday, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

The bidders include Polygram NV, News Corp., Morgan Creek Productions and the Investment Firm Safari Acquisitions, the paper said.

The Sydney Morning Herald, meanwhile, reported that Australian television company Seven Network Ltd. has joined with MGM management to bid about \$1.1 billion for the studio. News Corp., the global media concern headed by Rupert Murdoch, owns 15 percent of Seven Network. A spokesman for Seven declined to comment.

Lazard Freres is selling MGM on behalf of Credit Lyonnais, the ailing French bank that posted a \$2.4 billion loss in 1994.

As part of the bailout, \$27 billion worth of assets including MGM were transferred to the Consortium De Realisation to be sold.

Spokespersons for MGM and Credit Lyonnais refused to comment on whether new bids had been requested or when a buyer would be named.

The development further complicates an already difficult transaction, analysts said.

"There must have been some dissatisfaction (with the bids). I assume that this is a fine tuning."

said Harold Vogel, an entertainment industry analyst for Cowen and Co. in New York. "It happens to be difficult to do this, to solve these problems. The entertainment assets are not in as hot demand as they used to be, in general. The returns aren't as high."

In May, Viacom Inc. abandoned its effort to sell film and television producer Spelling Entertainment Group. The company said it failed to receive an adequate offer, even though Spelling has a long history of success in prime-time U.S. television.

But David Londoner, an analyst for Schroder Wertheim and Co., said the solicitation doesn't necessarily mean the original bids were below MGM's worth. Lazard Freres is just trying to get the best possible deal.

"They're trying to maximize it. If the bids were high, they might do the same thing."

With recent hits like "The Birdcage," "Goldeneye" and "Get Shorty," MGM has enjoyed a revival during the past two years.

During Hollywood's golden age of the 1930s and 1940s, MGM ranked among the leading studios. Its films included "Gone with the Wind" and "The Wizard of Oz."

But the studio fell on hard times in the '70s and '80s. Its sale by billionaire Kirk Kerkorian to the Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti was followed by virtual collapse in the early '90s.

State-owned Credit Lyonnais, which bankrolled Parretti, wound up repossessing the studio.

U.S. Cartoons Branded Culturally Subversive



In Disney's cartoon version of Victor Hugo's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" the tragic stature of the story's hero, Quasimodo, is diminished.

MANILA (AFP) - Experts at an international meeting here on child rights and the media Tuesday branded American cartoons as culturally subversive and called for a united stand against the U.S. media invasion.

"What we are now witnessing is a new form of colonialism... not any brutality - we are simply inviting the colonizers in," said Patricia Edgar, director of the Australian Children's Television Foundation told about 250 delegates.

"And for children, they come in the form of the Disney Channel, Viacom's Nickelodeon, Turner's Cartoon Network, and Murdoch's

Fox Network."

"They look innocuous enough but their messages are culturally subversive for our children," she said, adding that programs made by U.S. broadcasters reflect the growing belief in the individual over common social good.

Profit-based U.S. broadcasters lack traditional public service broadcasting funded by the government, she said.

Edgar said the United States controls 85 percent of the world's trade in audio and video, "so while the U.S. dominates all our markets, it buys and sees very little of any other products we produce."

"The Asian summit aims to re-

affirm the vital role the mass media can play in fulfilling the needs and rights of Asia's children," said Naohiro Kato, director of the Program Department of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union.

Twenty-three high-level ministers and vice ministers are attending the three-day conference, which also includes participants from Russia, South Africa, Britain, the United States, Iran and Jordan.

More than 70 percent of the world's 2.1 billion young people aged 18 and below live in Asia.

The U.N. Children's Educational Fund (UNICEF) made strong appeals to the media to

promote the convention on the rights of the child, the U.N.'s most widely accepted convention with 187 signatory states.

UNICEF representative Rolf Carriere, told delegates that communication difficulties were leading to health problems for Asian children.

"In the public's imagination, the home of the malnourished child is in sub-Saharan Africa."

"Yet in total numbers, for every African child who is malnourished, there are close to three in South Asia, while four if we include East Asia and the Pacific," Carriere said.

"Lack of information about nutrition and proper child care practices is an important factor. And there is a communications challenge here."

Singapore-based Asia Mass Communication Research and Information Center revealed the partial results of a survey on Asian television which showed that only three countries - China, Japan and Vietnam - placed high priority on children's programming.

In these areas, television producers were familiar with the convention on the rights of the child, the report said.

"There was a high degree of priority on children's programming," said Vijay Menon, secretary general of the center.

The summit will also include plenary sessions and workshops on a range of topics from violence in media to access to the "Information Superhighway."

IRAN

POLITICAL NEWS

Children's Lives Mirror Death of U.N. Safe Haven

TUZLA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (AP) - Ferida Osmanovic hanged herself a year ago. She just walked off alone into a quiet wood, leaving behind her two children to fend for themselves.

Her despair was too much to bear. She endured the long siege of Srebrenica. Then came the terrifying end when Bosnian Serbs overran the Muslim enclave. The final horror was seeing the Serbs drag her husband away.

One July later, Osmanovic's grave in a paupers cemetery is marked by a simple slab of wood inscribed: "No Name: Srebrenica." But she has not disappeared. Her children know where she is buried and have drawn the hard lessons of war, death and despair.

The world is struggling with the lessons, too. International investigators are searching for the bones of the dead men of Srebrenica, and a U.N. war crimes tribunal is hearing the grisly tale of their slaughter.

"I remember my mother's eyes," recalls her 15-year-old son, Damir. "They were red all the time because she never stopped crying."

Last July 11, Bosnian Serb tanks rolled into Srebrenica, a eastern enclave protected by Dutch U.N. peacekeepers. Thousands of people huddled for protection at the Dutch base, thousands more fled across the hills and forests. Neither choice was a good one.

Osmanovic's husband, Selman, was plucked off a bus by Serb soldiers. He is among about 7,000 men who were never heard from again.

Damir, his sister Fatima, now 10, and mother made it to safety in Tuzla, about 55 miles (88 kilometers) northwest of Srebrenica.

But within days, 34-year-old Ferida walked away from a refugee camp, and hanged herself from a tree.

The children's paternal grandfather found the children after two days, but it was not until a month later that he was able to identify his daughter-in-law from a police photo.

It was the children's closest, but far from their first experience of death and suffering.

War came in April 1992 when their mother's brother, 28-year-old Sehid Dzanic, was shot dead while picking corn.

"I remember we were hungry, and he wanted to get us food, and then he was hurt and left us," says Damir, a short boy who rarely smiles.

Then came three years of siege, shooting and shelling and hunger, a dark memory that Fatima, a shy little girl with an easy smile, says it is difficult to talk about.

Serbs squeezed Srebrenica at will. In March 1993, Lt. Gen. Philippe Morillon of France, then the U.N. commander in Bosnia, entered the town to draw attention to its plight.

When the Serbs let U.N. trucks leave with Morillon to take out those who wanted to go, the panic was such that some people were crushed to death. Two of the children's aunts, Seida Osmanovic, 30, and Hiba Hajdarevic, 41, made it out, but their family stayed.

In April 1993, the U.N. Security Council declared Srebrenica the first safe area protected by U.N. troops, and the enclave settled into the numbing routine of siege for the next two years.

That came to an end last July as the Serbs squeezed Srebrenica once more and built up their forces around its outskirts.

The several hundred Dutch

peacekeepers were no match. When the Serbs moved in, the Dutch turned over the thousands of Muslims who sought safety at their base in Potocari just north of Srebrenica, and left.

"We were moved to a house in Potocari and spent the night there," Damir says. "The noise of screaming people and shooting woke me the next morning."

Then, evacuation buses came. Muslims climbed aboard, but Serb soldiers, whom the Muslims refer to as "Chetniks", took off all the men.

"They took my father and I never saw him again," Damir says. "My mother wouldn't stop crying, and I was very scared."

Over the next several days, despite promises they would not be harmed, men ranging in age from their late teens to early 60s were transported to several killing fields, executed and buried in mass graves, according to eyewitnesses.

Damir's grandmother Habiba says her daughter-in-law may have felt guilty for forcing her 36-year-old husband to join her in Potocari instead of allowing him to try to flee through the woods with other men from their family.

"She did not kill herself because she was mentally ill, but I think she felt so sorry that she led her husband to his death," she says.

Last week at the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, Dutch Col. Ton Karremans testified about his helplessness to stop Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic from capturing Srebrenica.

The hearing was aimed at highlighting evidence against Mladic and the Bosnian Serb civilian leader, Radovan Karadzic, for genocide and crimes against hu-

manity.

One year after the Srebrenica massacres, both men remain at large. Under international pressure, Karadzic has turned his presidential powers over to a deputy, but he appears no closer to standing before The Hague tribunal to answer charges. Mladic spends his time at a well-guarded compound about 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of Srebrenica.

Survivors of one mass execution say they saw Mladic at the killing fields.

One of the fields is Glogova, just northwest of Srebrenica, where Damir says his father worked as a locksmith.

Glogova is believed to contain the graves of up to 2,000 people herded and subjected to a barrage of grenades and firearms. The warehouse is peppered with bullet and shrapnel holes. Bits of human hair and tissue still are visible on walls.

War crimes investigators have uncovered the bodies of bound ci-

vilian men buried in mass graves around the area and plan to begin exhuming some of their remains within days.

The families' agony goes on. Damir and Fatima's 63-year-old grandmother says the two children are a burden to poor refugees who lost everything.

"I don't know what to do with these children," she says. "I can't offer them much. Eight of us live here together and sometimes I think I should give the children to the orphanage."

"We can never forgive our mother for what she did," the children say together. Damir adds: "It's the Chetniks I will never forget."

Sri Lankan President Extends Her Deadline to End Ethnic War

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has extended her own deadline to restore ethnic peace in the country by one more year as Tamil Tiger guerrillas kept up their attacks, a state-run daily reported yesterday.

The government is keen to end the protracted war, which has claimed more than 50,000 lives since 1972, in a bid to accelerate economic development, the Daily News said.

"The president yesterday pledged to end the war and restore complete peace by the end of next year," the Daily News said, referring to comments made by Kumaratunga at a public meeting in her home constituency of Attanagalle on Sunday.

In May, the Daily News quoted Kumaratunga as saying she hoped to conclude the government's military drive against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in six months.

The newspaper did not say why Kumaratunga had pushed back her own timetable to neutralize the separatist guerrillas, but since her first public remarks the Tigers have stepped up their hit-and-run raids in the island's northeast.

Kumaratunga was quoted yesterday as saying that her security forces had achieved a number of "credible military victories" within a short period. She also presented a political package to address the demands of the minor-

ity Tamils.

"The government will address the grievances of Tamil people and ensure that no injustice is done to them," said Kumaratunga. A member of the majority Sinhalese community, "Our battle is against a band of ruthless terrorists."

Last year government forces captured the LTTE's main bastion of Jaffna in the north of the country following a series of military operations. The rebels have since vowed to stage more guerrilla attacks.

A senior minister narrowly escaped death Thursday when a woman Tiger suicide bomber exploded a bomb she was carrying, killing 36 others and wounding at least 50 more. The authorities have warned that there could be more Tiger attacks.

The United States yesterday condemned the devastating suicide blast and urged "separatist terrorist organizations" not to repeat such attacks.

"The U.S. sends its condolences to the family of the (army) commander killed and all others killed in the blast and urges terrorist organizations to cease all such acts of terrorism," the U.S. information service said here.

Thursday's bombing in Jaffna was aimed at Housing Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva who narrowly escaped death but sustained head injuries.



KARACHI, PAKISTAN: Maulana Fazlur Rehman (L), chief of a right-wing religious-political party, Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam (JUI), addresses a protest rally against vulgarity in culture July 5. Activists of JUI raised anti-U.S. slogans and vowed to continue their holy war against what they called "un-Islamic practices". (AFP Photo)

Leaders of Old East Bloc Demand Unified Europe

SALZBURG, AUSTRIA (Reuters) - East European leaders spoke out unanimously on Sunday in favor of a united continent that would guarantee continued rapid economic growth and security as they cast aside their Communist past.

The leaders, meeting in this picturesque city nestled in the foothills of the Alps, were clearly relieved that only a few days earlier voters in their most powerful member, Russia, stuck with pro-reform President Boris Yeltsin.

"Europe is destined for cooperation. It is not destined for division...but this happy world of cooperation will not come by itself," Slovenian President Milan Kucan told the opening of the three-day Central and Eastern European Economic Summit.

Most of the government heads urged an expansion of the European Union and to be included, despite Russian objections, in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

"The preconditions for stability in Central and Eastern Europe can only be created by modernization...the most important means of modernization is integration," Prime Minister Gyula Horn of Hungary told the world economic forum-organized meeting.

Membership of the EU was essential for many as they sweep away the last vestiges of Communism and transform into market economies.

But President Michal Kovac of Slovakia warned against taking so long to resolve the issue that both sides lost their enthusiasm for membership.

"Economic integration should not be stopped, otherwise a new Berlin Wall will appear," Kovac added.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma also urged the EU and NATO to keep their doors open for those countries who wanted to join at a later date.

Russia has been vehemently opposed to increasing the size of NATO, set up after World War II to combat any military threat from the East bloc.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu said Russia's position had to be taken into account when boosting the size of NATO, as well as the EU.

But other leaders said Moscow no longer had to feel threatened and that it was vital for Europe to pull down the old barriers.

"We would like a situation in which Russia no longer thinks of NATO as a potential aggressor. There is no more need to think like that," Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz said.

He hoped NATO and Russia could reach agreement on finding

a common security system.

Cimoszewicz and other leaders made no bones about their delight that Russian President Yeltsin with his pro-reform platform beat off his Communist challenger last week to secure a second term.

"The election means there is a much better chance than a week ago to have strong democratic development in Russia," he said.

Propaganda or Patriotism? Canada Forms New Information Agency

TORONTO (AP) - To skepticism and ridicule, the government created a 20-million dollar (\$15-million) information agency Tuesday to promote national unity and oppose Quebec separatism.

Critics, tipped off by news leaks last week, have denounced the agency as a wasteful propaganda scheme that won't sway public opinion in mostly French-speaking Quebec, where roughly half the population favors secession.

The new Canada information office will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, who insisted the agency's primary purpose is not propaganda.

"This is not an advertising office," she said at a news conference in Ottawa. "This is an office about keeping Canadians in touch with each other."

The office, scheduled to start in September, will have a staff of 15 and be funded from money already allotted for other federal programs.

It will work with grassroots groups seeking to boost national unity, promote youth exchange programs and counter separatist criticism of Canada's federal system.

Copps said the 1995 Quebec referendum, in which the separa-

tists gained 49.4 percent of the votes, showed that Quebecers and other Canadians don't know each other very well.

"We need to have a vehicle to connect people together," she said.

The Separatist Party Quebecois, which holds power in Quebec and intends to hold another secession referendum in the next few years, has denounced the agency as an assault on Quebec's sovereignty.

Even the party Quebecois' political nemesis, the right-wing reform party, thinks the new agency

is a bad idea, as do some members of the ruling Liberal Party.

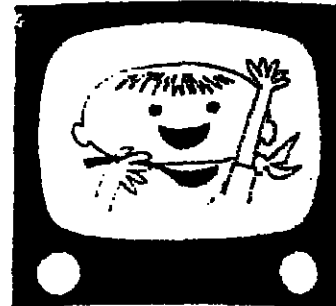
"Is this big brother giving us more propaganda?" asked Jim Abbott, a reform member of Parliament. "When we turn over defining Canadian identity to Sheila or the government at large, immediately my alarm bells go off."

Some critics say an aggressive promotion of Canada's attributes could trigger a backlash in Quebec.

"Feel-good nationalism doesn't sell in Quebec," said David Somerville, president of the National Citizens' Coalition, a conservative lobbying group.

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Kids' World



JUMBLE KIDS

- that scrambled word game! -

By HENRI ARNOLD and MIKE ARGIRION

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

IRS

DOLF

DWIL

OFOR



Color me

You are now ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Then play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

Print answer here: THE

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Hey Kids! Let's Learn Some New Words

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| come | Bill will come to my party. |
| coming | Bill will arrive at my party. |
| came | When I called Bill he said, "I am coming to your party." |
| concentrate | Bill came to my party. |
| | The teacher said, "Please concentrate on your lesson." |
| | The teacher said, "Please think only about your lesson." |

What Place Has the Lowest Temperature on Record?

The place with the coldest temperature on record is near the South Pole. At a weather station called Vostok, 400 miles (640 kilometers) from the Pole, the temperature has gotten colder than 126 degrees below zero (-126°F or -88°C). No people live

around the South Pole, except scientists who visit the weather station. But some people make their home in another very cold place - northern Siberia, in Asia. Temperatures there have gone down as low as 94 degrees below zero on the Fahrenheit thermometer (-70°C).

Where Is the Deepest Part of the Ocean?

The deepest spot is in the Pacific Ocean, near the Mariana Islands. Here the water is over 36,000 feet (10,900 meters) deep - or nearly 7 miles (11 kilometers) from the surface to the bottom. This is deep enough to swallow the highest mountain in the

world - Mount Everest - which is nearly 6 miles (10 kilometers) high. If you were to drop a rock the size of your head into water 36,000 feet (10,900 meters) deep, it would take the rock about an hour to reach the bottom!



Iman Davoodi
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GPA: 19.91,
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GPA: 20, Iranian Complex in Istanbul



Bita Bastani
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GPA: 95.90,
Qods School

Some Books for Children

IRAN NEWS CHILDREN'S DESK

Rabbit Makes a Monkey of Lion, retold by Verna Ardema and translated by Saba Morshed was first published in 1374 (1995-1996) with a circulation of 5,000 and a price of 1,950 rials.

The lion is believed to be a very powerful and strong animal. But in the story, the rabbit and his clever friends make a monkey of this strong animal....



مردی که می خواست تا ابد زنده بماند

به روایت سلینا هاستینگز تصویرگر: رگ کارت رایت ترجمه: رامین کریمیان



The Man Who Wanted to Live For Ever, retold by Selina Hastings and translated into Persian by Ramin Karimian, was first published in 1374 (1995-1996) with a circulation of 5,000 and a price 1,750 rials.

Bodkin wanted to live for ever. He visited the Old Man of the Forest, the Old Man of the Lake, and the Old Man of the Mountains in search of the secret behind eternal life. For several hundred years, Bodkin lived happily with the Old Man of the Mountains, but....

Color and Learn by Ferdows Hajian was first published in 1375 (1996) with a circulation of 5,000 and a price of 1,600 rials. This educational book enables small children to learn the colors and use them. In addition, it acquaints them with sizes of various objects or creatures.

